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homestead high school
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the Spartana

A History Lesson

A look at schooling 112 years ago with historian Linda Huge. Photo editor Zach Hetrick depicts life in Center School. 4A ■

FALL Festival OF BANDS

Festival prepares band for state competition

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Rick Dent (11) plays the school song on his flute before the Dekalb football game.

By Katie Corson
Writer

October in Indiana means things like Halloween, pumpkins, colored leaves, and cooler temperatures. But for the band enthusiasts of Fort Wayne, October means the Fall Festival of Bands at Homestead.

Fall Festival, which is typically held the first Saturday of October, allows Homestead to host bands from class A, B, and C, throughout the day.

"This year we drew one of the largest number of class A bands," Drum Major Paul Gilbert (12) said. "Avon, Penn, Snider, Lawrence North, La Porte, Hamilton Southeastern, and Lafayette Jefferson all competed at Fall Festival and some of them are strong competition for us."

Two years ago, Avon High School, located just outside of Indianapolis, moved from Class B competition to class A. Since making the switch, Avon has placed first at the state competition two year in a row. This accomplishment has made Avon one of Homestead's toughest competitors the past two years.

"Avon is definitely strong competition for us. They are working hard to defend their state championships, but we're working hard to take it from them," Drum Major Liz Kitto (11) said. "[The competition in] Indy should be interesting."

Homestead's show, titled: 'Balance,' provides a little something different this year, which they believe is keeping audiences and judges interested.

"I like that we are able to show the theme through our music and choreography this year, instead of props. In the past, we have used a lot of props; we've had things like tarps, trampolines, and easels, and this year we're not using anything," Kitto said. "I like not having props better because I think it leaves more for the audience's imagination."

Many band members also believe that the lack of props has allowed them to focus more on the most important aspects of their performance, such as musicality and marching technique.

"Lately, at practice we have been working on individual marching technique. We march well as a whole, and now we're really focusing on ev-

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The Spartan Alliance Band
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PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Boys quicken pace

Steve Clark (12) looks for success as the cross team advances. 4B ■

Life

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Director awaits decision on musical

By Lee Farnsworth
Business Manager

After last year's debacle over the spring musical, drama teacher Ed Koczergo was placed under 'prior review' constraints for musical selection this year. In other words, scripts must be submitted to the principal for approval prior to their being preformed.

Koczergo submitted his choice for musical over the summer in order to avoid another last-minute production change. "Urinetown," the story of a town where the citizens must pay to urinate due to a water shortage, was Mr. Koczergo's choice for this year. Four meetings over the show's approval were held. After these meetings, Mrs. Moake asked for Koczergo to provide another choice for this year's musical.

"I turned in "Urinetown". It was not refused, but it has not been accepted as of yet," said Koczergo. "However, Moake kept insisting on another choice."

Initially, Koczergo refused, saying that he wanted only to do "Urinetown". Moake remained adamant and required Koczergo to submit an alternate script by October seventh. On that date, Koczergo had a meeting with Moake and submitted another choice. "So as of right now, she (Moake) may say yes to both, no to both, or yes to one," said Koczergo. "It's all up in the air. I am confident, though, that "Urinetown" will be given the consideration it deserves."

> *"It's all up in the air. I am confident, though, that 'Urinetown' will be given the consideration it deserves."*
>
> Ed Koczergo
> Drama Director

Koczergo believes that the only reason the administration is hesitant to approve the selection is because of the title.

"I think that most people view the title as unacceptable," said Koczergo. The show has drawn critical acclaim for it's humor and writing. Although the title may turn people off initially, the play is more about greed, money, romance, and how far people will be pushed before they push back.

Koczergo waits to hear about the fate of his choice for the spring musical. Koczergo hopes that the administration can get past the title of the show and evaluate it based upon merit, that "Urinetown" can be defined by what it is, not what it is called.

Playing around

Actors look to hone their performances in preparation for the fall play, "The Mouse that Roared." 2C ■

PHOTO KARA WALL

News Analysis:
Corporation staffing examined

By Laura Summers
Writer

Rumor has it that the school has been hiring teachers who are not the most qualified applicants for their jobs and are chosen because it costs the school district less to pay for rookie teachers. The district feels otherwise.

Phyllis Davis, Director of Human Resources for SACS, is in charge of hiring new staff members. The process of hiring teachers seems to be quite tedious. Davis looks at all the candidates, but sometimes has only the applications to decide on who would be the fit best for the job. She refers the applicants to the principal of whatever school at which the job is being offered. Sometimes there are recruiting fairs that both Mrs. Davis and the principals attend to meet with some possible prospects.

The most qualified of all the applicants then go on to the interviewing process. Each interviewee has to go through two or three meetings to show that he is right for the job. For example, a possible English teacher might have to write an essay to show that he is competent in that field.

Concerning the average number of years the new teachers have in SACS, it was difficult to determine an exact figure. One teacher that was hired had fifteen years of experience. There was another with twelve, and yet another with no experience at all. Mrs. Davis simply looks for the best and most qualified for each position. She even believes that recent graduates might have a better understanding of the standards of the district. They would be more contemporary and have a better handle on certain technology skills.

The district itself has nothing to do with deciding how much money can be spent on new teacher salaries. The state actually determines the budget available for staffing. The district sees how many positions need to be filled and then uses the budget constraints that they are given.

This year, there were 31 new teachers hired, eight of whom were for newly-created positions. A teacher with zero experience receives about 32,000 dollars per year. Teachers with 25 years experience and up can make up to about 60,000 dollars-per-year.

If they hired only teachers with 25 years of

see *News Analysis* on page 2A

SACS software expensive, controversial

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

With thousands of dollars in technology pouring into centerpoint and the network, SACS' expensive software and servers are becoming controversial.

The original Novell network has been in service for slightly less than a decade, but it continues to change. Many students are unhappy about the difficulty with logging on to the network online. Students have been unable to access files from home since school restarted, and the network is just now becoming more accessible with the addition of an 'ftp' site to facilitate file transfers.

Centerpoint, and the other grading software that the district has experimented with over the years (SASI, Criterion), have totaled hours of effort by administrators and teachers, and often a lot of money.

Centerpoint, an online grade book which corresponds directly to the teachers' grades, was purchased from Pearson School Systems, a business and education software company. The price of centerpoint was unavailable, but products cost thousands from Pearson.

SACS employs six district administrators (tech-savvy individuals who are paid to manage the networks).

"In the past two months I've had well-over two hundred calls requesting a student or parent password change…I'd estimate that at least 50 percent of the parents are using [centerpoint,] and at least 90 percent of teachers," Amy Alberding, a district administrator said.

Alberding works full-time at the CMT and helps manage the student information system.

"We're still going back and forth [on the effectiveness of centerpoint], but as far as I've heard there's been no mention of getting rid of [centerpoint]," Alberding said.

Former head of technology Henry Melon (who was head of technology) oversaw the implementation of centerpoint. District administrators Shane Stetcher and Chris Martz now head the program.

"After a certain time period we'll decide whether [centerpoint] is a cost-effective solution or not…and if not we'll move on to other things," Alberding said.

With the demise of SASI last year and the complicated processes students and teachers are going through this year, technology is certainly not a favorite of most of SACS.

"We've had several problems with networks crisscrossing," Alberding said. "Communications are still interfering with each other between groupwise (a teacher program) and centerpoint."

With all of the technology, and the myriad of problems associated with it, the district has been scrambling to find a steady solution. It seems like the moment a program begins to work, the district finds another it would like to change to. If the trend continues, the controversy over spending and will surely grow with it.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

state bound

Spartan Alliance Band travels to Dome for state competition

By Jim Katz
Writer

After more than 350 hours of practice over the course of three months, the Spartan alliance marching band is well prepared to face yet another year of competition at the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions.

The school has been a frequent part of the top four of the state class A marching bands for the past twenty years.

"I highly doubt if this year will prove the exception," Danny Panyard (12) said. "No state finals appearance is guaranteed however."

For Indiana marching bands, there are four classes and three levels of competition. The bands are divided into four classes: A, B, C, and D. The Spartan Alliance is a class A band. The first level of competition was district, which was held on Saturday, October first at Northrop high school. The Spartans received gold ratings, enabling them to advance to regionals, the next level of competition. In addition, the school also won caption awards for auxiliary, music, and visual, along with general effect.

This past Saturday, the northern bands in class A and C that qualified for regionals, competed at Chesterton high school. There was stiff competition between the 14 class A bands at northern regional, with 12 bands earning gold division ratings. Earning such recognition does not guarantee qualification for state, as only five bands can advance from each regional in each class. Those bands were: Lafayette Jefferson, Northrop, Laporte, Penn, and the Spartan alliance.

"Our primary goal is to make it to state finals each year," Panyard said.

State will be held at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 22nd. Forty bands, ten in each class, compete for the coveted state title.

To be competitive in such rigorous competitions, the Spartan alliance begins optional practice in June. Mandatory rehearsals begin in late July. By the time competitions begin, the band has practiced over 350 hours, including learning music, choreography, and many run-throughs.

"It's hard not to feel prepared after practicing as much as we do," Panyard said.

This year, the band plays three relatively unknown pieces by composer John Williams, known for the music of many movies, including Star Wars. The reaction to the show has been generally positive.

"I personally like it," Panyard said. "The songs have a lot of big, brassy, power hits, which have been the main staple to Homestead's reputation for as long as I've been with the program. Its got lots of cool licks, a great ending...it's a good show for sure."

For those who want to come out and support the Spartan Alliance and all the hard work its members have put in, the competition on Saturday at the RCA Dome.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Top: A trombone player marches during halftime. During the football season, at home games, the band provides the halftime entertainment
Left: Erica Hutt (11) twirls a flag during halftime at a football game. The color guard practices alone, and then with the band for run throughs.

Jim Shull invents tennis net lifter

Biology teacher, tennis coach Jim Shull receives patent for tennis net lifter which betters tennis players' game

By Javed Sayed
News Editor

"Raise the net, hide the lines, raise your game." This slogan is the idea behind science teacher and tennis coach Jim Shull's tennis net lifter. Shull came up with the idea over ten years ago, and since then his invention has slowly evolved.

"[The tennis net lifter is] a set of telescoping poles attached to the tennis posts, which allow for three different barriers to be raised above the net." Shull said. "The idea is to hit a window above the net as one's primary focus, rather than aiming at a ground target."

The theory behind the net lifter is that by raising the net, players are forced to hit higher, with more spin. Additionally, the raised net forces players to hit through certain targets, thereby promoting accuracy of shots.

The tennis net lifter is a unique invention that has been tested by both the boys and girls tennis teams. Coaches and players who use the net lifter have the option of attaching targets to the net. This helps develop accuracy and a more consistent game.

"[Players] will learn depth control as well as lateral control faster as they learn to hit higher," Shull said.

Shull is in the process of acquiring a patent on his idea. He currently has two steps left before the process is complete; (although the tennis net lifter is already registered with a priority date so his idea cannot be stolen.) Several different companies make parts of the tennis net, and Shull has enlisted the help of a company to help promote his product.

> *"[Players] will learn depth control as well as lateral control faster as they learn to hit higher [with the tennis net lifter]."*
>
> Jim Shull
> Tennis Coach, Inventor

Shull hopes that by Christmas 2005, the tennis net lifter will be manufactured and sold to teams and clubs throughout the nation.

Shull has a long background playing, as well as coaching tennis, which has helped him to develop his invention. The idea for his invention spawned from his realization that most errors are in the net, "even at the professional level."

Shull is confident that his device will benefit tennis players of all skill-levels across nation. For more information, watch for his article in an upcoming Tennis Magazine.

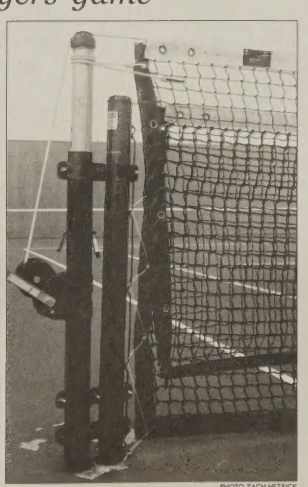

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Shull's tennis net features telescoping posts, which are used to lift the net and hide the lines.

Festival, continued from 1A

eryone marching the same way," Drum Major Anna Menze (12) said. "It's important for everyone to move the same way because it makes the band as a whole look better. It's very specific. Everything needs to be more precise each week."

In the time between the end of band camp in August to the state competition in late October the band's show changes drastically, and this year's performance is no exception.

"We've had a lot of rewrites this season. We work really hard at practice though and we're able to tell pretty quickly whether or not something is going to work," Kitto said. "We add and change so much that we never have the same show from week to week. On Saturdays [at competitions] we can see the rewrites working and the hard work paying off and that's really encouraging."

Unfortunately, when a band hosts a competition they are only able to perform in "exhibition," which means they are judged, but are unable to place or receive awards.

"I think because we are never placed at Fall Festival the performance is not always taken seriously, and we don't always perform to our potential," Menze said. "I think this year we all realized the importance of the show and performed our best this year."

Gilbert gave his feelings on state.

"It's a little bittersweet. This is my last year, and it will be my last performance at the dome," Gilbert said. "I'm also really excited though. I just want everyone to be able to come off the field with no regrets. I think it's going to be a good night."

News Analysis, continued from 1A

experience or more, they would only be able to hire about 18 teachers, where they would have needed at least 23 to fill all of the old positions.

Mrs. Davis, along with the school district, does not concentrate solely on the budget.

"We do seek first year teachers in order that we have staff members who can grow with us in their careers. Our teachers must be top notch and we aggressively seek the best graduates possible from colleges all over the country," Davis said.

For the rookie candidates, she checks their GPA from college, and she makes sure that they have a strong knowledge of their area. Their major would most likely have to be the position for which they are applying. She looks at their student teaching evaluations and speaks with the person they taught for. She calls all of the candidates references (they must have at least six).

In the interviews, Davis examines the applicants' communication skills. She feels that if a candidate cannot speak well in an interview with a select group of people, how would he be able to talk to a bunch of students. The prospects must have a very high energy level and a positive attitude. He must describe how he will teach and discuss the strategies he plans to use. Davis believes that must be the motivation for teaching.

"The challenges are great for educators today, but the rewards are even greater. New teachers get the chance to learn throughout their job as they are teaching," said Davis.

"I am looking for the best quality teachers who can continue to improve professionally."

Davis ended by saying how much she enjoys finding new teachers.

"We all want the best for our schools, and our teachers [give] our district the level of greatness that it is. We want to give new teachers an opportunity to get started, and what better place for them to start than Southwest?"

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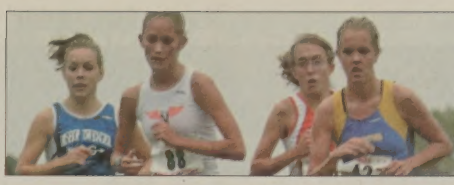
Sports



Striding out

Alex Bartel (far right) and the girls' varsity cross country team look to clinch their eleventh straight state appearance tomorrow at semi-state. 4B

Varsity girls soccer clinches sectional title

Team comes up with big wins over Luers, Columbia City

By Erin Quinn
Writer

Sports are a packaged deal: friends and experiences and conquering adversity, all rolled into one delightful, but stressful activity. They are full of doing things that are hard, doing things that hurt, and then reaping the benefits from the expended effort.

Ask any member of the girls varsity soccer team, and they'll tell you about all of those elements. They've played the role of "victor", they've played the role of "leader", and they've played the role of "overheated, exhausted player".

Two-a-day practices during summer vacation and dealing with conflicting personalities? They've dealt with them. Setbacks and injuries? They've encountered them, and walked off the field victorious, nonetheless.

The Spartans ended their regular season with a Northeast Hoosier Conference Championship. Beating Carroll for the conference title, they reclaimed the trophy from two seasons ago, when it was last in their possession. A highlight of the season, the girls celebrated their victory and looked toward the promising post season.

The first sectional match up of the 2005 season was against Huntington North on October 11th. Beating the Vikings uncontested (11-0) and earning a bid to the second round of the tournament, the ladies moved on to play Columbia City two days later. They grabbed the sectional title with a 2-0 win over Bishop Luers on October 15th.

Standing at 13-4-2, they've beaten teams they weren't expected to, and they've lost one too many games for their standards. It has not been easy, and it doesn't promise to get any easier in the future, but with strong upperclassmen leadership, the Spartan's hope to make a strong post season run.

And yes, the ever looming parent figure is right, sports teach participants valuable lessons. Losing isn't particularly enjoyable, but it happens in life, and athletics teach people how to handle not getting what they want, or working hard...and coming up short. Sports introduce failure, stress and responsibility at a young age.

Prepping for a penalty kick in the final minutes of a close game, or warming up for a tough battle of wills are nerve wracking experiences. But once they have happened, once the game is over and everyone has parted ways, the fact remains that it really does not matter who won or lost.

Important victories

Conference:
Carroll
Sectional I:
Huntington North
Sectional II:
Columbia City
Sectional III:
Luers

Volleyball storms into sectionals

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Chelsea Sholl (11) "digs" the ball during a volleyball match as a crowd of Homestead students watches intently from the stands behind her.

By Katie Corson
Writer

With all the regular season games over, the varsity volleyball team only has a few practices left to prepare for sectionals. The team finished out the season with a winning record and the girls are going into sections feeling prepared and confident about their abilities.

"We are lucky because we drew a bye for our first game," Monica Krause (12) said. "In our second game we play South Side, and we beat them pretty [easily] last week. We're hoping to play Northrop again for the championship."

The girls met Northrop at Homestead for their last home match. It was just last Wednesday night and the match for Senior Night.

"We had a really tough practice the Monday before the Northrop game to get ready to play them," Michaela Miller (12) said. "We worked a lot on passing drills and did a lot of scrimmaging."

The team's struggle with maintaining focus this season has been an obstacle for them; but they think they have found a solution just in time for sectionals.

"Everyone has been doing yoga outside of practice, and I think it's really helping. It helps our strength, focus, flexibility, and balance," Krause said. "We have all noticed that we have been able to focus better in practice and games. I think it's the best way to fix the issues we've been having with focus."

The girls played their best against Northrop, but in the end, Northrop was able to outmatch the Spartans.

"It was a big night and we all worked harder and played harder because it was Senior Night," Krause said. "Obviously we wanted to win, but the fact that we played well is more important. I'm ready to see them again in sectionals."

This year's seniors, Michaela Miller, Erica McMahon, and Monica Krause said that they had mixed emotions around Senior Night.

"I was excited for Senior Night," Miller said. "It's a little sad because it made me realize how close we are to the end of the season. I'm going to miss the team a lot."

The girls each had her baby picture hung on the wall in the gym, and each was given a fish by her teammates.

"Senior Night was cool because it made you feel really special. The four years have gone by really fast," Krause said. "I know I'm going to miss the girls a lot because we have had a lot of fun together. I'm going to miss just playing too."

Both Miller and Krause believe that the experience of the team has been a great contributor to their success over the season.

"We have a lot of experience and we're used to playing together. I can anticipate what other girls are going to do and make adjustments quicker because of that. I think we have all been able to play that way this season," Krause said.

Last weekend, the volleyball team played at a tournament at Penn High School. "We lost our first match to Luers, which we were all really disappointed about," Anna Huguenard (11) said. "We played well in the next two matches though, and beat Prairie Heights and North Ridge."

Huguenard, a co-captain and the team's starting setter, beat the school's assist record during the tournament at Penn High School. The previous record of 804 assists was set in 2001.

"I didn't start thinking about breaking the record until our coach mentioned it about half way through the season," Huguenard said. "After that I started really trying to beat it. I'm really excited about it because it's something I've been working hard to do. It also shows that we're playing better as a team. The only way I can get an assist is if someone then gets a kill so it means everyone else is working hard too."

With sectional play still left, Huguenard has over 850 assists and is still counting.

"Our first sectional match is Saturday against South Side," Huguenard said. "I really want to break 900 this season."

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Anna Hugenard (11) set the school's assist recod.

Varsity football tackles the pressure, headed into the postseason

By Sam Van Horn
Writer

For the past three seasons, the varsity football team has fell short of one of their goals set before each and every year. That goal is to win a sectional championship. However, this season, they finally accomplished it with a win over the New Haven Bulldogs. For them, though, it's not enough, as tonight they have their first post-season game; and all they can think about is winning the sectional championship.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Kenneth Perkins (12) avoids defenders at a game.

"You always want more than you have," said Kevin Bultemeier (11) who had 18 tackles in the past two games. "We are trying to go as far as we can."

On Friday, October 7, the Spartans were on the road to face one of the toughest teams in conference. Norwell was the destination, and with a win over the Knights, they would clinch a share for the conference title. To win though, they were going to need to show why they were the best defense in the NHC; and slow down the high-powered offense led by Cole Hoopingarner.

Hoopingarner dazzled the Spartans defense with a 47-yard-run to score the first points of the game. Jordan Wise (11) answered with a 15-yard strike to Taylor Kinzer (12) to knot the game up at 7 heading into halftime. However, in the fourth quarter, Hoopingarner finished the Spartans by adding another touchdown run to his total of three, and also catching an eight yard touchdown pass from quarterback Chandler Harnish. The Spartans fell short 29-14 and suffered their first loss in conference play.

"The biggest thing was mis-execution," said Wise. "Nobody took control of the game, and we just got beat."

The Spartans running game struggled in their loss to the Knights. But last Friday against the New Haven Bulldogs, they ran for more than 350 yards, holding their opponent to just 22 yards.

Showing off their offense, the Spartans put up 48 points, including 14 in the first quarter. Seven of those points came early with an 18-yard touchdown grab by Trevor Terrell (12). He finished the game with four catches for 93 yards and two touchdowns. The Bulldogs were kept in the game with two interception returns for touchdowns, including a 100-yarder in the third quarter to take the lead.

The Spartans answered back with their running game, scoring 13 points in a row, and went on to win the game 48-30. Kenneth Perkins (12) and Kinzer split time and combined for a total of 226 rushing yards. Charles Seals (10) also added 69 yards on the ground averaging 8.6 yards-per-carry.

"If we run the ball successfully, like we did against New Haven, then it sets up the pass later in the game," Bultemeier said.

At the end of the regular season, the Spartans finished 7-2 (6-1) to win a share of the conference title. They rank first in defense and third in offense in the NHC. Their first post-season game is tonight against Northrop. For that game, expert analyst Charley Jorgensen shares his thoughts of the first round sectionals.

"Northrop ranks 6th in points allowed in the weak SAC. The Spartans put up over 350 yards last week, so that will most likely force Northrop to pay most of their attention to the ground game. With that, expect the passing game to open up, and for Wise and company to have a big game."

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Ryan Wright (9) prepares to make a hit on a Dekalb ball carrier.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Lee Castillo (12) controls the soccer ball with his chest in order to pass two opponents from South Side at the sectional semifinals game on Thursday, October 13. Castillo was nominated for the all-district team as well as making first team all-conference this season.

Boys soccer team takes first in conference after another successful regular season

Spartans' season ends with sectional play against rival, Canterbury

By Josh Butcher
Writer

The boys soccer team ended the regular season by clinching the conference championship, and beating a team they would see early on in sectionals. The Spartans played Norwell on Monday, September 26; a cold, wet night. The conditions were very muddy and it was hard to adjust to the field's condition. It was a slow first half resulting in a 0-0 tie going into the second half. Finally, Steve Mendenhall (12) scored on a header from Lee Castillo (12) to take the lead 1-0.

During the second half, Norwell had many opportunities to tie things up, but could not finish. With some strong defense from the Rosenblatt brothers, the Spartans went on to win the shutout, 1-0. Being the second-to-last conference game of the year, this was an important victory for the boys since they now, at worst, would tie for first place in the NHC.

On Saturday, October first, the Spartans faced the Bishop Luers Knights. It was senior night, so the boys went out with a lineup fully loaded with their seniors. The Spartans knew they would face this team in sectionals, so they also wanted to have this different lineup so Luers would not be able to see the way things would really be later on.

Ironically, freshman Tom Gallmeyer lit it up, dropping two big goals in the game. Alex White (12) also scored to help lead the team to another end-of-the-season win.

The last regular season game was played on Monday, October third, against another conference team: New Haven. The Bulldogs surprisingly jumped out early, scoring in the first two minutes of the game. Gallmeyer scored midway through the first half, on an assist from Joe Salisbury, (11) to tie things up.

With the score tied, 1-1, at halftime, the Spartans knew they must end the season with a win to take the conference championship. Salisbury, with no delay, scored twenty seconds into the second half. The Spartans ended up winning 3-1 and clinched the NHC championship.

The guys finished out the season like they wanted, with a strong winning record and first place honors in conference.

"Our regular season had its ups and its downs, but turned out good in the end," said Tony Bowen (12). "Our highlights were our wins against Carroll and Dekalb to take conference. We really came together as a team and played some great soccer."

With their major season goal of beating Canterbury to win a sectional title, it was time to get down to business.

"My goal is to make it to state this year. I believe we have a great team and we can make it happen if we play our best every game and take the tournament one day at a time," Bowen said. They had to get by a few teams first to get the game they had been hungry for all year long.

They drew Luers in the first round of Sectionals, a team they knew they could do well against. Mendenhall and Castillo hooked up for a pair of goals to take a 2-0 win. The Spartans controlled the whole game and started off their sectional run well.

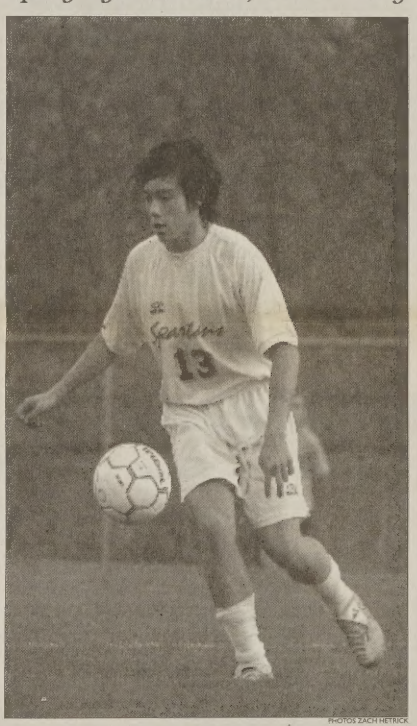
Next, the guys faced Southside in the sectionals semifinals on Thursday, October 13. The boys had minimal experience against this team, so they didn't quite know what to expect.

Again, the Spartans controlled the entire game and had 27 shots on goal. Although they could only score once, they went on to defeat the Archers 1-0 for a ticket to the sectional finals against their rival, Canterbury.

"I really want to win sectionals this year, which means beating Canterbury," said Gallmeyer. "To do this our team will need to play smart and quickly; something we've been struggling with off and on all season."

The game started as even as it could, with both teams scoreless at halftime. The Cavaliers scored first, two minutes into the half, to give them the lead first. Salisbury responded with a goal with ten minutes left in the game in order to tie things up.

The game ended up going into overtime, with two seven minute periods. Canterbury scored once in each period for a final 3-1 win over the Spartans. It was not how the boys wanted to end their season, but it was one of their best played games of the year against a very quality opponent in Canterbury.



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Steve Mendenhall (12) dribbles and prepares to pass to a forward in the center. Mendenhall made second team all-conference this year.

Post-Season Results

NHC Conference Champs
Sectional win against Dwenger
Sectional win against South Side
Sectional loss against Canterbury

Basketball players expect promising season

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

While many fall sports seasons are coming to a close, which means the winter sports season will begin. Many teams practice and join various leagues in the off season to gain more experience.

The boys' basketball team has been playing some throughout the fall and is anticipating the start of the season. The team returns all but two players, Ben Haifley ('05) and Jeff Grabowski ('05), from last year's team. With a majority of the team returning, the team is confident that they can be one of the best teams in the area.

Coming off a solid 13-7 season, the team knows they can improve greatly. Also, finishing 5-2 in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) still gives the guys something to work for. Some of the key returning players looking to lead the Spartans are Grant Leindecker (12), Jono Cobb (12), Trevor Terrell (12), Brandon Parker (12), Steve Clark (12), and Shane Ferrell (12). Returning juniors to the varsity team are Kyle Liendecker (11) and Connor Meeks (11).

This group of players has a lot of experience playing with each other and that should result in some improvements from previous years. The Spartans have been working throughout the summer and fall in an effort to get ready for their season.

"During the summer we had open gyms and work outs," said Terrell. "Lots of us played AAU ball over the summer to work on our game. I know they have open gyms going on twice a week right now until the season starts."

"We would like to go undefeated and win... a sectional title. With the talent on this year's team, those goals are not out of reach."

Trevor Terrell (12)
Varsity basketball player

Team members feel that this extra work and time put in may be able to push them to the next level as a team. The team is confident that they can be a great team this season.

"We have some really good shooters, we work the ball really well," said Terrell. However, as with any team, there are some things they need to work on. "We will need to improve our defense if we really want to be successful." The players think that they will be prepared to start the season off well. Their first game is on November 26th at home against Whitko.

Heading into the season, the team has their expectations set high.

"We would like to go undefeated and win conference and sectional titles," said Terrell. With the talent on this year's team, those goals are not out of reach." An important conference match-up will come on January 13th at Columbia City. Another important game will be at South Side on December 6th. Also, on February 17th the Spartans will face Snider which will be another tough game. Both Snider and South Side also compete in the same sectionals as Homestead, which start on February 28th at Northrop.

Another aspect that the team will have to adjust to is the arrival of the players on the team that also play on the football team. The end of football season usually overlaps some with the beginning of the basketball season.

"Basketball is a lot more endurance, whereas football is like a couple seconds of sprints at a time," Terrell said. "Its takes a little time getting into 'basketball shape' but its really not too bad."

Overall, the outlook of the team looks bright with many key players returning and hoping to lead the team throughout the season.

Swimmers hope to keep their winning tradition going

Confident senior leaders guide underclassmen on quest for success

By Taylor Pyle
Writer

After ending their seasons last year with outstanding achievements, the boys' and girls' swimming teams plan on keeping the tradition alive this year. The boys finished eighth place at state, while the girls placed fourth. Led by the Indiana coach of the year in 2003, Chad Englehart, both teams continue to work hard in the off-season to make sure that this year will be nothing less than exceptional.

With the season coming to an end, most of the swimmers on the team joined SWAC, a year-round club team that focuses on preparing for the next season. The team also does an hour and a half of dry land training every Tuesday and Thursday, after an hour-long swim practice, to get in better shape.

Dry land training consists of many workouts focusing on strengthening the core as well as upper and lower body. Some examples are exercises like squats, pull-ups, and running stairs. Both teams have been working hard since the beginning of their off-seasons in hope of doing just as well or better than they did at the state competition last year.

With the start of a new season approaching, both teams look up to certain seniors and leaders to guide them in their quest for success.

"Shawn Sullivan (12) is a big-time leader," said Tom Evans (11). "He really has a great voice for leading the team and has stepped it up big time this year. Bob Dent (12) is another big leader who will probably place really high at state and will make sure that everyone is working hard to place high also."

"Jessica Hennick (12), Kelly Johnson (12), and Dani Johnson (12) were our captains last year, and will most likely be this year," said Kendra Kinzer (11). "They are the girls who we all have looked up to and are people we trust."

As of October 13, the boys are ranked third in Indiana behind Southeastern and North Central, while the girls are already ranked fifth. The teams lost some veterans last year, but have young talent that will be sure to contribute to both of their success this year.

"I am very confident that the year will be really strong, we didn't lose too many top swimmers last year and we have a lot of young, strong talent that should score very well at the competitions," said Evans. "We've set high team goals to be sure that we're in the top three at state."

With only a few days left until their first meet, Homestead continues the hard work in order to start off their season with a bang. If all goes as planned, you can count on hearing about two very victorious Spartan squads placing very well in the state competition.

Upcoming Swim Meets

11/17 Concordia - away
11/29 East Noble - away
12/7 Snider - away
12/13 Bellmont - home
12/20 Dekalb - home

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814

Life

Trick or Treat?

Two haunted houses in area are reviewed and compared by scare factor, price, and location. 4C

New construction, new faces

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

The growth of southwest Fort Wayne is being supported by the addition of new neighborhoods, creating problems for schools and over-crowding.

By Luke Chase
Writer

Covington Elementary and Aboite Elementary schools are both over capacity. Southwest Allen County Schools are becoming more and more crowded but there is hope yet for the body-lined hallways. Three of the local elementary schools were built to grow and that is precisely what was proposed to happen at last Tuesday's school board meeting.

Two schools are already over capacity: Covington Elementary and Aboite Elementary. Covington is well-over capacity and is likely to receive many more new students from subdivisions being built on Covington and West Hamilton Roads.

The good news is that the utility systems within the schools were laid so as to make expansion economical. Covington Elementary has the land and ability to add twelve new classrooms, thus increasing capacity by 240 students. Lafayette Meadows also has the same ability, and Whispering Meadows can be expanded by 8-10 classrooms with the same economic benefits.

Expansion is not the only option. SACS has become rather familiar with the construction of new buildings lately with the building of the new Woodside Middle School, the relocated Lafayette Meadows, and Covington Elementary which already has a few years under its belt. A new elementary building would be able to house 500 students as opposed to the 240 student accommodation if expansion occurs at Covington Elementary.

The problem with a new building is that the expenses are far greater. Site costs alone are estimated to be $600,000. The ongoing operations cost will be $227,000 greater at a new elementary building and there are also other costs such as a new principal, various other staff members, and utilities.

The total operating cost for a twelve-room addition, increasing capacity by 240 students, is $263,000 where as the operation cost for a new elementary, (capacity of 500 students,) is $490,000. Basically, whichever way Allen County decides to handle the growing population due to new subdivisions, it will be costly.

When these elementary students reach middle school age the new Woodside Middle School will be ready to house the masses. The new middle school has a maximum capacity of 1,000 and Summit has a maximum capacity of 750 students.

This year's elementary enrollment is 2,845 students in grades kindergarten through fifth. What will happen when all these elementary students reach Homestead? How long is homestead going to satisfy the needs of the growing school system and community?

This was not overlooked by the school board. In fact, Superintendent Brian Smith says: "We don't ever project going over the capacity of the building [Homestead]."

This was based upon a recent demographic study that looked ten years into the future of the community's growth. However, these studies are only reliable for two to three years due to uncontrollable factors in our community.

Some of the problems encountered by demographers are the habits of empty-nesters, interest rates, and the most puzzling of all, what the effect of our annexation will be upon the movement of people in and out of our school system.

However, demographers still manage to make some amazingly accurate readings. An example is this year's elementary enrollment (2,845,) and the average projected enrollment for this year (2,935,) were different by only ten students. While this issue remains unresolved, many options are now available.

Construction Cost Analysis
(estimated)

12-Room addition: $6,450,000
Additional capacity: 240 students
Ongoing operation costs:
$263,000

New elementary building:
$17,260,000
Additional capacity: 500 students
Ongoing operation costs:
$490,000

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Top and left: Construction for a new neighborhood has already begun. The neighborhood is across the street from the new Woodside and the Chapel, at the corner of West Hamilton and Covington roads.

School	Additional Capacity	Comments
Aboite	2-6 classrooms due to limited land space and building system capacity	no additional comments
Covington	12 classrooms and appropriate support area expansion	building design allows for economical expansion
Deer Ridge	2-4 classrooms due to very limited land space and systems capacity	no additional comments
Haverhill	no viable options for further additions to the school	land space totally utilized on 3 of 4 sides
Lafayette Meadows	12 classrooms and appropriate support area expansion	building design allows for economical expansion
Whispering Meadows	8-10 classrooms and appropriate support area expansion	building design allows for economical expansion

SOURCE: ELEMENTARY EXPANSION OPTIONS VIA SUPERINTENDENT DR. BRIAN SMITH

Religion in school?

Questions surround presence of religion and its affiliation with schools

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

"I don't think it's okay for a team to pray before a game... because [a player] may feel like [they] should [pray as well] to feel like a part of the team," Samantha Fowler (11) said. "I don't think religion should be in school because some people may be offended by it. [The administration] shouldn't force [religion] on you."

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," reads the first amendment. Those words, (and some comments from founders) have formed the foundation of a "wall" of separation between the church and state that has lasted since America's founding. In a time of increasing evangelicalism, many worry that religion will permeate the government, and schools are increasingly the battlefield between religion and the state.

The issues where religion and school have mixed are many. Questionable issues include which religious holidays should the student body be excused for, should there be prayer time or even moments of silence allowed in the classroom, and can 'under god' remain in the pledge of allegiance (which the administration, by state law, is now sponsoring).

One of the most visible murky lines of church and state is in the lunch room, where representatives and youth pastors from a variety of Christian organizations have been making regular appearances.

"I think [religious officials] should be allowed into the school, as long as they talk to kids who want to be talked to," Barak Coolman, the director of Campus Life (a non-denominational Christian youth organization) said.

"I think that [youth pastors] serve a role in education. They give guidance to those who need it most."

Barak Coolman
Campus Life Director

Coolman is well-known across the District, but is a fixture at Homestead. He is currently a basketball coach for the Spartans. Campus Life has played a role at Homestead since its inception 23 years ago. Coolman gives up his lunch once a week to meet with students in the cafeteria.

"In my opinion, [religious figures] should let kids approach them. I'm not going to go up to a table of kids who I don't know and try and influence them," Coolman said.

Coolman believes that if the school is open to all religions (and the visiting representatives don't bother kids who don't want to talk), he sees no problem with allowing religious members into the cafeteria.

"I think that [youth pastors] serve a role in education. They give guidance to those who need it most. To me, if [pastors] are making a positive impact, it's like having more police officers. The police promote less violence and more discipline; we promote good decision making and positive choices," Coolman said.

Coolman, like many in the district, believe that student-pastor relationships help students feel cared about, and pastors are often easy to talk to.

Some students may be offended by seeing youth pastors like Coolman during lunchtimes. In recent months with a national debate over creation-stories in school rekindled by "intelligent design," the issue of separation of church and state has once again come to the forefront of American politics.

Most students agree with the Supreme Court's stance on the issue, which has consistently ruled that as long as open access is promoted, the situation remains basically legal. The decision springs from the Bill of Rights, where "equal protection" was originally written. Erin Blum (11) agrees with that stance.

"As long as [youth pastors or the administration] not trying to force people into a religion, I don't see a problem with it," Blum said. "That's the freedom we have in America."

With the hard right of politics pushing for ever-more conservative Supreme Court nominees, the stance of the court may become more loose on the issue of separation of church and state. Homestead remains secular in almost every way, and is likely to remain that way for some time. But history has shown that schools are often the first battlegrounds for testy subjects, and this issue remains a very testy subject.

Student starts freestyle rap group

Rashad Lovett (11), along with seven others members, begin USP

By Sam Stahl
Writer

Most Homestead students have probably heard of quite a few student rock bands, but they may not know that Homestead also has a student-formed rap group.

Rashad Lovett formed USP, 'The Usual Suspects,' in sixth grade, although the band really got started in eighth grade. Among the eight members are: Phil Kruyer (11), Hector Johnston (10), Marcus Miranda (10), and Sherad Curry (10). All members of the group are Homestead students.

Lovett cites well-known groups such as NWA, G-Unit, and D12 as influences on the group. Members of those groups include 50 Cent, Dr. Dre, and Snoop Dogg, arguably the three most influential rappers in recent years. Of Sean "Diddy" Combs, Lovett said he "respects his business savvy."

"There's no form of rap. We do a little bit of everything. We do it to beats of our favorite songs that we download off the internet and burn CD's and make up our own words to the beats," Lovett said.

"We're looking for someone with recording equipment so we can record a few things. My goal is to get a CD out sometime in the future," Lovett later said.

Aside from vocals, the group uses synthesizers and mix tapes. According to Lovett, the group is considering doing something of an impromptu performance on the FM 91.1 The Pointe, the school radio station. The appearance would most likely be on Abe & Isang's rap show, which airs Saturdays from 2-3 p.m. In addition to the performing on air, the group hopes to make a recording. But currently, they do not have access to any recording facilities. Lovett hopes publicity from performances and even this article will open up opportunities to his group.

ALTERED PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Phil Kruyer (11), Marcus Miranda (10), and Rashad Lovett (11) are three of the rap group members.

Cast members practice for a roaring play

Students involved in the fall play, The Mouse That Roared, practice to have a hit on opening night

By Taylor Underwood
Writer

With a story line that matches headlines across the globe, *The Mouse That Roared* is this year's comical fall play that puts a new twist on war. Theater director Ed Koczergo thought the play would make an interesting statement about war and how the United States pushes its' wealth in the world.

A young girl happens to be the president Duchess Gloriana, sovereign of a microscopic country in the Alps founded centuries ago by a roving band of English Bowman. Gloriana's unique solution to the near bankruptcy of her tiny domain is to declare war on the United States! There's some method to her madness, however, for her studies of recent history suggests the surest way to wealth today is to lose a war with the U.S., for that country's odd reaction is to pour aid, relief, and rehabilitation to the vanquished. When her "declaration" is considered a prank, Gloriana decides to escalate.

Tully Bascomb, presently in charge of the bowman, is to launch an attack so they can surrender and reap the rewards. Serious-minded Tully, however, upsets all calculations when he and his bowman do the last thing expected- they win! You'll find comment in the comedy and amazing similarities to the state of the world today.

"Rehearsals are going very well," said Koczergo.

His expectations for the play, however, are neither higher nor lower since rehearsals have started.

"As long as the cast and crew have fun, that's what counts," said Koczergo.

The lead roles are dispersed among many grades, and trend holds true for the rest of the cast. There are ten seniors, nine juniors, eight sophomores, and three freshmen.

Senior Karolina Heyduk, who is cast as Secretary of State Mrs. Beston, is already excited though rehearsals have just begun.

"We are in the second week of rehearsals, doing individual scenes. Reading the script is one thing, but seeing it acted out is a completely different experience," said Heyduk.

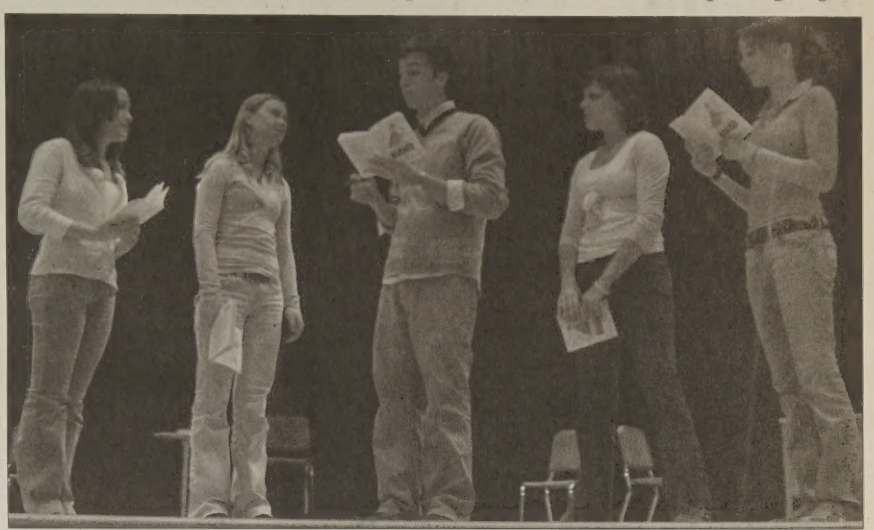


PHOTO KARA WALL

Cast members, Tricia Matz (12), Emily Alger (12), Seth Dager (12), Laura Replogle 11), and Laura Summers (11) role lines during a scene for practice.

One aspect of the play that will escape no ones grasp is the tie it has to the world today. War and the power of the United States are themes throughout the play.

"It's a funny story that can be paralleled to current events. You'll laugh at the lines, but see a connection to the state of the world today," said Heyduk.

"I enjoy the total absurdity of this show. There are so many fun and interesting characters in the show, and I am really enjoying to develop into my character," said Greg Kyles-Myland (10).

"I think this play is kind of a cute portrayal of how the United States compares to the other, smaller nations of the world," said Meg Warner (11).

Warner is cast as Miss Wilkins, the Secretary of the President of the United States. She feels the play was brilliantly written and the casting could not be better.

As rehearsals create perfection in each scene, the plays November 10th, 11th, and 12th dates promise a great show.

"It has something to say about the world today. And…it's funny," said Koczergo.

Warner agrees "we have Homestead's finest comedians in this play. People will really enjoy it."

"Our school is lucky to have an outstanding theater department that aims not only to entertain but also broaden out minds through performing arts," said Heyduk.

With a comedic outlook on one of our world's most trying realities, *The Mouse That Roared* is a show that will be appreciated by everyone that goes to see it.

PHOTO KARA WALL

Seth Dager (12) and Anne-Marie Joyce (12) get into character and rehearse lines for a scene.

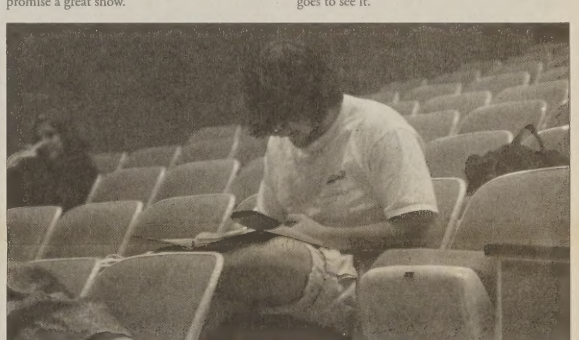


PHOTO KARA WALL

While waiting for a scene, Andy Wirtner (12) reviews his lines for his scene and works on homework .

Seniors dismissed for job shadow or college visit

While freshmen, sophomores, and juniors come to school for a full day, seniors spend the day by looking at future colleges or interesting jobs

By Tyler Churchward
Associate Life Editor

As sophomore and juniors headed into their respective homerooms at 7:50 to take the PSAT tests, which were taken by millions of other high school students across the United States, seniors were either job shadowing a parent or family friend or attending a college that may be an option for future attendance. Some seniors opted to stay home instead, shadowing their parents and wasting the day, and others just came to school, sitting in study hall for the duration of the test, which was from 7:50 until about 11:00.

The day prior to PSAT testing day, October 11th, was designated as an "early senior skip day", organized by Kevin Bartkowiak, in addition to the nearly nationally designated senior skip day, which occurs the Monday after prom. However, the senior parking lot was nearly as full as it was any other day, and it appeared that only a few seniors skipped the day.

Students were required to turn in some proof that they visited a college, which varied from a signed slip or a card from the admissions office to a lanyard from a university gift shop. If students job shadowed, a paper from the place of business was the most common form of verification. Students who stayed at home probably just had their parents sign a piece of paper that said they job shadowed them for the day.

"I job shadowed the coroner downtown at the city-county building. Basically, I sat in the office and learned what goes on at the office and how deputies and investigators work together. I also received a lot of advice for my future for college and tips of how to compete for my future job of a forensic pathologist,"Carolyn Rhodebeck (12) said.

> *"I job shadowed my dad at McCallister, Inc. They make CAT equipment, used in CAT machines, it was a great time."*
>
> Devin O'Mara (12)
> Student

Many students job shadowed their parents, but some shadowed family friends at other places. A few of the more common professions shadowed were: business work at an office, doctors such as heart surgeons and orthopedic surgeons, and lawyers.

"I job shadowed my dad at McCallister, Inc. They make CAT equipment, used in CAT machines, it was a great time," Devon O'Mara (12) said.

Countless students also attended colleges around the state, as well as locally. Clint McMillen (12) went on a college visit to Ohio Northern University.

"I visited Ohio Northern, where I walked around campus and looked at the athletic facilities. The school is Division-III in athletics, so I might be playing baseball for them next year," McMillen said.

Universities like Indiana University in Bloomington, Purdue, and IUPUI were also visited by students on October 11th. Other students opted to stay local and visit colleges such as Taylor University, IPFW, and Ivy Tech. Students who waited last minute to register for a visit were not able to visit a college because of the amount of students who signed up for a visit.

These college visits and job shadows proved to be a real benefit for the senior class. Since the day was left wide open for the students to decide, those students contemplating going straight into a career after high school could get some real world experience to see if it something that interests them; if the student is planning to go to college, a college visit would allow them to see if a certain university is a good fit. Whatever the students option is, this day provided invaluable opportunities in helping seniors decide what awaits them after graduation.

Quick Facts

- *Must sign a transcript release form before an application to a college can be sent in*
- *Applications cannot be picked up in Student Services*
- *College applications can be completed online or completed by asking a college for a form*
- *Scholarships forms can be picked up in Student Services*
- *Students can visit a college, with an excused absence, three time*

¡Bienvenidos!

Spanish club members enjoy food from Cebollas and elect officers during meeting

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

Under new student and staff leadership, the Spanish club is making progress into the year.

The new officers were just recently chosen in the club's last meeting. Carolyn Rhodebeck (12) was nominated as the club's el president. Amanda Armstrong (12) was nominated as Vice President, Amber Farrant (11) as treasurer, and Ben Bechtel (11) as the hombre in charge on food.

"I basically assist the President and give my ideas," Armstrong said. "Carolyn will give each of the officers specific things to do, so I basically do what she tells me to do."

Spanish Club meets every other Thursday at 2:40, either in Ms. Hill's Room or Mr. Peeper's room. The meetings are usually held on the 13th and 27th of every month.

"We are trying to organize most of our plans far in advance so that we are not rushing to get things done as we have in years past," Armstrong said. "We are also trying to make each meeting different and fun."

The most recent activity they had was held at Cebollas, where they discussed issues about upcoming events. They are now planning what there t-shirts will look like and discussing matters concerning Samaritan boxes.

"We will be doing our normal activities like our Valentine's Day sucker fund raiser and our annual trip to Chicago," Armstrong said. "We have been trying to make our meetings better by having parties and going to different restaurants."

The new staff for the club includes Spanish teacher, Senor Peeper. He is a new teacher this year and will assist Senorita Hill in the meetings and activities.

"Senorita Hill and Senor Peeper are the club sponsors that work with all of the officers," Armstrong said. "They try to make our plans into actual activities and without them, we wouldn't be able to accomplish the things we want."

The officers are planning on rearranging a few things from last year, such as teaching the other club members more cultural history. Another thing they want to accomplish is becoming more organized with the different activities and meetings.

"This year the students want to enrich the club members more in the Spanish culture," Senorita Hill said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAY HARRIS

The Pointe Church opens its doors in Jefferson Pointe

By Annie Baenen
Life Editor

Sunday mornings at the Rave movie theatre aren't only for movies anymore. Five weeks ago, The Pointe Church at the Rave began Sunday morning church services. The Pointe's main pastor, (and creator of the church) is Ray Harris. Harris has been a pastor for 22 years and was previously the youth pastor at The Chapel.

"We had been praying about starting a church for about a year. The Pointe is really a church for a younger generation; I think being at the Rave makes if more comfortable for youth," Harris said. The Pointe is an interdenominational church, which means it is open to people of all faith backgrounds.

The first week of services, The Pointe brought in 579 people and it is still growing each week. On Sundays, The Pointe has two services; one at 9:15 and the other at 10:30. Then on Monday nights, there is a high school group that meets at Ray's home at 7:00 PM. To the majority of people, the thought of having a church service in a movie theatre is a bit odd.

"We're the church with the cup holders. We have stadium seating and great sound. It's a very comfortable, casual setting. People don't have to worry about what they are wearing. The early churches met in public places and that's what we're doing. I think this makes church less intimidating. It's a familiar place for people, and that makes it more comfortable. It's really unusual for a church to start so large, so I think we're meeting a need in the community," Harris said.

"I think the main difference is that if you're really serious about taking your next step spiritually, we're serious about helping you. We want to help you grow. We want to help those within the church, but we also really want to impact those in the community," Harris said.

> *"We're the church with the cup holders. We have stadium seating and great sound. It's a very comfortable setting. People don't have to worry about what they are wearing."*
>
> Ray Harris
> Pastor of The Pointe Church

Kathy Gilpin was Harris' assistant when he worked at The Chapel. She is now the head of childrens' ministries at The Pointe. When asked what the childrens' ministry was, she called it "organized chaos." Kathy directs KidStuf, which is a theatre program, mainly based around the family. It's 45 minutes of singing, story telling, drama, and videos for the family.

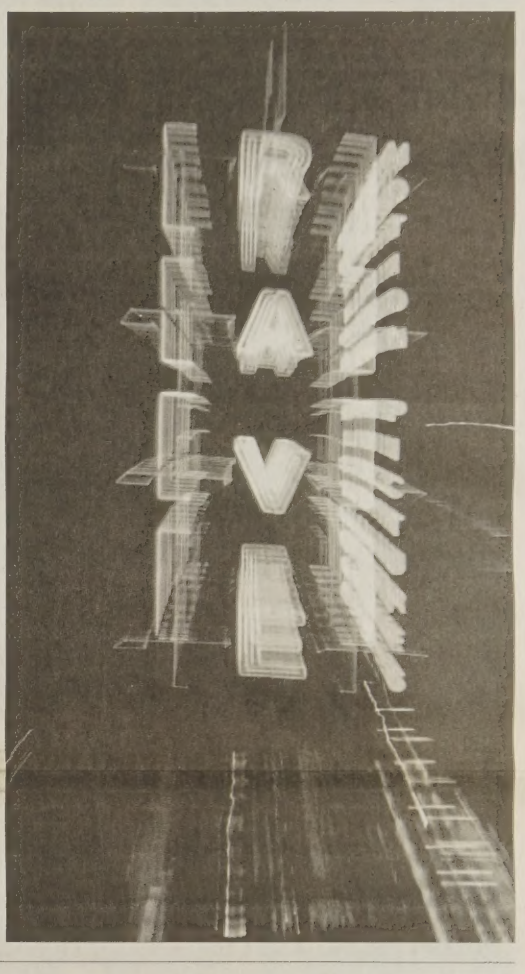
KidStuf starts during second service and it's for the family. They are getting the same message so they can discuss it during the week. Its messages and stories from the Bible, but real life situations so they can apply it to their everyday life.

The children's ministry on Sunday mornings are always hectic. I would know because I lead a small group of kids from ages kindergarten to first grade. I love the kids in my group and I love getting involved. It has been such a great experience for me.

At 9:15 AM, Up Street starts, which is a term The Pointe uses for small groups. Small group leaders get a chance to get to know the children. In small group, they learn how to apply the messages they are learning. Then, the kids meet their parents and go straight to KidStuf, where parents and their kids learn lessons together as a family.

"We're a real church and we don't sugar-coat things. We really wanted to pay attention to the people. People find it really refreshing and it's very accepting. We want to build leaders and equip people... and make them feel confident," Kathy said.

For information on The Pointe Church at the Rave, check out http://www.thepointechurch.net.



More about The Pointe...

Service Times: 9:15 AM and 10:30 AM
Upstreet: small groups for children
KidStuf: worship for parents and their children
MidPointe: middle school meets second service
Ekko: middle school outreach held Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
HighPointe: high school at Ray Harris' house on Mondays at 7:00 PM

Shia LaBeouf shines in new release

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

A legend in the sport but well past his prime, Harry Vardon (Stephen Dillane) was considered the greatest golfer ever by the beginning of the twentieth century. Five-time British Open champ, Vardon had dominated not only his fellow Brits but also the Americans for years. But his fame and expertise began diminish by 1913, and many questioned whether Vardon had anything left for another championship run.

Meanwhile, the Brits were still fuming over the American's recent win in the U.S. Open, an event Britain had owned for years. Determined to take the cup back from the Americans, the British aristocracy enlist Harry Vardon for one more run. Vardon is reluctant, however, to undertake such a rigorous task, as he is not getting any younger. But in a country where titles still mean everything, Vardon did not come from the right roots. And though he is a legend, he is not considered elite. Fueled by a promise of an honorary title if he brings a victory back to his country, Vardon agrees.

2,000 miles away in Massachusetts, 20-year old Francis Ouimet (Shia LaBeouf) is a typical New Englander, still living at home and dreaming of once playing professional golf. But he, too, lacks the social status to be taken seriously in the sport. As a caddy at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, Ouimet knows the course inside and out, though his father (Elias Koteas) strongly disapproves of his son's goals. After failing to qualify for the U.S. Open, (scheduled to be played in Brookline that year) Ouimet's father convinces him to hang up the golf clubs for good.

A few months later, however, everything changes. Vardon (Ouimet's childhood hero) announces his participation in the Open, and Ouimet is invited to participate as well as an amateur. A complete unknown in the golfing world, Ouimet finds himself teeing off against golfing legends. But none have more on the line than Vardon, whose future social standing in Britain is in jeopardy if he loses.

And thus begins a true David vs. Goliath story: the young, upstart peasant boy from small-town USA against the greatest golfer to ever play the game. It truly was "the greatest game ever played."

The Greatest Game Ever Played will surely prove to be another family classic. A charming performance by Shia LaBeouf anchors the strong cast. Elias Koteas is also quite impressive as Ouimet's gruff and rough father.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the film is its unusual cinematography. The camera frequently zooms in on the character's tee shots, and the audience gets to see the shot as the golf ball would. Based on a true story, The Greatest Game Ever Played wins viewers with its effective balance between comedy and drama, as well as with its strong character performances. Shia LaBeouf, better known for his slapstick role on the Disney Channel's Even Stevens, especially shines in his silver screen debut. The cinematography keeps the viewer's attention, and all loose ends are tied up at the end; no head-scratching or gaping plot holes to be found. Overall, director Bill Paxton does a solid job of weaving a genuine, feel-good story that is sure to give audiences that warm and fuzzy feeling after leaving the theater. I give it three stars.

Franz Ferdinand's sophomore album more mature than first

By Tyler Churchward
Associate Life Editor

You heard Ferdinand's smash hit "Take Me Out" during the summer of 2004 and in early 2005 when Sony's PSP (PlayStation Portable) first came out. Now that they are more experienced musicians with a good deal of touring under their belts, Franz Ferdinand has released their sophomore album, You Could Have It So Much Better, on October 4, 2005.

If the name of this band sounds familiar, it's because they took the name Franz Ferdinand from the Archduke of Austria, whose assassination in 1914 sparked the beginning of World War I. (Enough of the history crap, on with the review.)

Hailing from Glasgow, Scotland, this quarter of disco-punk rockers packs some serious punch in their music. Any and all of Franz Ferdinand's songs are perfect party music; they would go great in an iTunes commercial too.

This album is full of drug references; they reference MDMA (ecstasy) on You Meant," cocaine on "This Boy," and Valium on "The Outsiders," among others.

"The Fallen" starts off with a heavy guitar and drum intro, then some great singing and lyrics, along with some "ooh-whoo" in the background on occasion. (What else could you want?) This is a great song, definitely one of the best on the album.

"Do You Want To" is the first single from this album. Frankly, this is one of the worst songs on the album in my opinion. If you like "You're lucky, lucky, you're so lucky" and "Well do you want to, do you, do you want to" repeated over and over for three-and-a-half minutes, then listen to this song. There is a hidden innuendo in this song, see if you can pick it up. Otherwise, just skip over it.

"This Boy" has a deeper, darker sound to it, but is undeniably influenced by The Clash. It is often said of Franz Ferdinand that they are an updated 80s punk band, and it really shows in songs like this.

"Walk Away" is very western-sounding, which is odd, considering the group is a quartet of Scottish art students. However, they play it well, and the emotional singing adds a nice touch.

"Evil and a Heathen" is another awesome song, but it is short, only two minutes long. Though it may be short, this is a solid Franz Ferdinand song.

"You're the Reason I'm Leaving" is one heck of a roller coaster. Going from a frenzied, speedy verse, the song quickly changes to a mellow, relaxed interlude for a little bit, then goes back into the frenzy.

Don't even listen to "Eleanor Put Those Boots Back On," it is awful. It is very much like The Beatles, but I do not like this song, and I like The Beatles. "Well That Was Easy" sounds exactly like "You're the Reason I'm Leavin," so it is a good song. "What You Meant" sounds very much like Oasis in the beginning, but eventually changes into the typical Franz that everyone knows and loves.

"I'm Your Villain" has one of the best introductions I've heard in a long time. The song makes it imperative that you tap your foot or drum your fingers or something to the beat, which happens to be a very good one. This song is one of the top three songs on the album.

The title track, "You Could Have it So Much Better," is decent, but nothing special. The guitars sound pretty cool, but that is it. "Fade Together" is a relaxed song, which is not what Franz Ferdinand does best, but the piano playing is entertaining for a while.

"The Outsiders" is my favorite song on the album. The lyrics are superb in this song: "I've seen some years, but you're still my Caesar" and "love will die and lovers fade, but you still remain" are brilliant lyrics, if you listen to one song on this album, make it "The Outsiders."

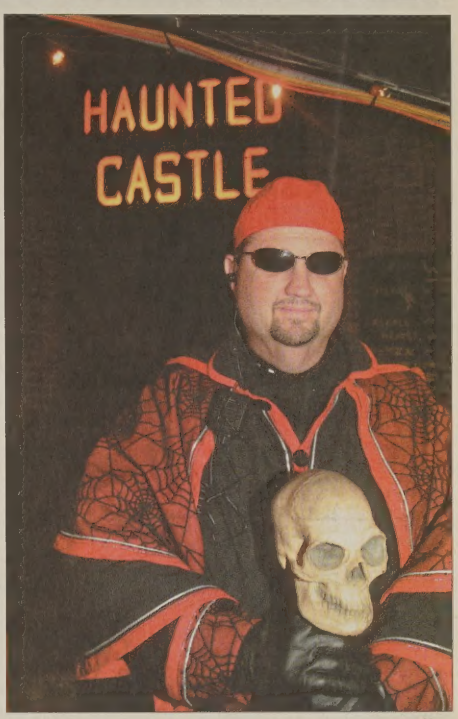
Franz Ferdinand is sophomore release, though substantially more mature than their self-titled debut album. As of now, I'm torn as to which album I like better; both albums are great. Franz Ferdinand has an incredible amount of talent and they will continue to produce great records in the future.

Other Halloween Events around town

Event	Date	Hours	Price	Location	Important Information
Haunted Castle, Black Forest, and Pharaoh's Revenge	open through 10.31	Fri & Sat, 7-11; Sun - Thurs, 7 - 9.	$9 each event, $20 three pack ticket. $5 VIP pass	8965 Auburn Road	The Haunted Castle, Black Forest, and Pharaoh's Revenge offer three different selections for all ages. The Castle and Pharaoh's Revenge are more fun houses. If you want to be scared, check out the Black Forest.
Haunted Hotel	open through 10.31	Fri & Sat, 7-11	$8 per person	515 N. Jefferson St., Huntington, Indiana	The lines are shorter than other haunted house. There is only a 20 minute wait on average.
Haunted Cave	open through 10.31	Fri & Sat, 7-12; Sun &Thurs, 7 - 9.	$9 per person	4410 Arden Drive	If you want a scare, this is the place to go. Not recommended for children under 12, the Cave plays on your senses with gruesome sights and chilling sounds.
Haunted Jail	open through 10.31	Fri & Sat, 7-11; Sun &Thurs, 7 - 9.	$9 per person	Markes Street, one block east of the Courthouse, Columbia City	Said to be the scariest of all, the Jail is an actual abandoned jail. There are cells filled with bodies, some dead, some alive. Try and find your way out.

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

IN THE FORT WAYNE AREA



Spartana Co-Editor, Larry Buchanan, and photographer, Zach Hetrick, tour four of the area's best haunted houses, 'The Haunted Castle, Black Forest, and Pharaoh's Revenge' and 'The Cave'

The Haunted Castle vs. The Haunted Cave

Fri & Sat, 7-11; Sun - Thurs, 7 - 9	**Hours**	Fri & Sat, 7-12; Sun &Thurs, 7 - 9
Open through 10.31	**Dates**	Open through 10. 31
8965 Auburn Road	**Location**	4410 Arden Drive
$9 per event, $20 three pack pass, $15 for two pack pass, $5 VIP Pass (bypass all lines)	**Prices**	$9 per person, $12 VIP pass (bypass all lines), $1 off with a caned food item
www.haunted castle.com	**Website**	www.hauntedcave.com
Located at the former St. Vincent's church, the Haunted Castle has a rich history. The project began 26 years ago and is put on by a St. Vincent boy scout troop. The church, built in 1904, had it's basement dug up and in the process three bodies had to be moved. The boy scout troop has continued to put on this Halloween event.	**History**	The Haunted Cave began as a private project. Nine years ago ownership decided to open it to the public. The Cave has evolved every year it has been in business. It continues to add to its already breathtaking scenes that it has, complete with numerous sights, sounds, and things that will scare even the toughest of people.
200 volunteers, boy scouts and their parents, must be at least 12	**Haunters**	30-45 volunteers on any given night, high school aged kids
"We have a wide variety of events. The Castle is the traditional haunted house. The Black Forest is by far the scariest, because its outside." -Randy Young	**Managers Opinion**	"We play on [people's] senses. We like to think of [the Cave] as a roller coaster; sometimes you get the little hills, and other times you get the little curves." -Russ Gusching
35 - 40 minutes for the Haunted Cave	**Time**	about 30 minutes
Proceeds go towards St. Vincent boy scout troop	**Proceeds**	All canned food collected goes towards the Community Harvest Food Bank
The atmosphere, a rural area, is very spooky, and makes for a good evening	**Additional Info**	A hurricane relief concert will be held on Saturday, October 2

Top: Keith Hedrick announces the rules to all the patrons about to enter the Haunted Castle. The Haunted Castle is in its 26th year of haunting. The Castle is part of a network of Haunted places located on Auburn Road. The houses include The Black Forest, The Haunted Castle, and The Pharaoh's Revenge.

Above: A volunteer peers through a trap door to better see oncoming customers at the Haunted Cave. The manager of The Cave, Russ Gusching, said that they try to play on your senses with many things that you can hear see, and even touch. The Cave also has a unique clown room. Circus music plays, while demented clowns dance around you in the dark.

Bottom Left: The strobe lit pipe maze in the Haunted Castle thrills patrons with a difficult maze that includes a Vampire. The Haunted Castle has many fun house type things in it, including a mirror maze.

Below: A skeleton pops up along the halls of The Haunted Castle. The moving props are often controlled by boy scout volunteers and their parents. There are over 200 total volunteers that work for The Haunted Cave, Black Forest, and Pharaoh's Revenge.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

A group of Spartan defenders, including Matt Deschner (11) and Brandon Derck (10), wrap up the Norwell ball carrier at Hippensteel Field during their game against the Knights. The Spartan JV team defeated Norwell in the contest.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

A JV volleyball player digs the ball while Colleen O'Hara (10) looks on during a recent game against Norwell.

JV fall sports hang up the cleats for another season

Volleyball, soccer, cross country, football, among others end 2005 campaign

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

It's been a season of wins and losses, fumbles, spikes, and stretching for the finish. But like all JV high school athletics, Homestead's students have found more than just points and personal goals…they've found things about themselves, and met friends. As fall sports come to a close, athletes will hang up their cleats and empty their lockers, but they won't be forgotten.

The JV soccer team, led by a strong core of sophomores, (and junior Dave Weiss) have finished the season with a winning record. On September 10, the JV squad was beat by Centre Grove, but rebounded with a win on the shoulders of Jon Miller (11) and Chris Warren (9). The team tied Concordia and defeated Carroll. Jon Seybert (10) stepped up in each game. The JV team defeated Huntington North on September 21, but was defeated by Canterbury the following week. The team won the September 26 game against Norwell. The final games of the season were a blow-out, 8-0 against Bishop Luers, where Greg Zimmerman (10) scored three goals to lead his team to victory.

Some highlights for the JV cross country teams include the West Noble invitational in which the boys and girls teams both placed first in the JV section of the meet. The girls were lead by Erin Quinn (10) and Amanda Kingsbery (11) while Evan Hanley (9) and Chris Miller (12) lead the boys. Sweeping the competition was no problem in this meet. The Bellmont Reserve Invitational was also a big success. For the girls, Amanda Kingsbery and (11), Hannah Smith (11) were the top female finishers. Evan Hanley (9) and Kyle Knezovich (11) were the top finishers for the boys. With several seniors graduating at the end of this year, the younger participants look to step up into varsity roles.

The freshmen football team had high expectations coming into this year. The team went undefeated last year, and brought a new batch of promising talent to the field this year. The Spartans started the season with an opening day loss to Huntington North. It was disappointing, especially due to the team's recent success. They managed to get themselves back on track, however, and enjoyed a successful season overall. They will need to hone their skills in the coming years in order to take a greater leadership role once they move up to varsity. Their success this year was a good start.

Led by sophomores Becky Price (10), Colleen O'Hara (10), and Erin Gould (10), the JV volleyball team worked their way to a winning record in 2005. Their toughest competition this season was Dwenger and Carroll, both of which were highly competitive matches. The Spartans were able to pull out both games. Three freshmen played well enough this year to make the JV squad. Kaylin Jorgensen, Taylor Meeks, and Kristin Kinzer all worked hard to make the JV squad, and contributed greatly to the team's success this year.

The JV football team had a rough start with an 0-2 record in conference play. The team then rallied to win six straight conference games. Boasting an undefeated conference record, the JV squad won conference outright.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Danny Strawbridge (11) and other members of the JV soccer team celebrate their dramatic win over their rivals, Canterbury. **Right:** Francesca Schmidt (10) and Kaily Ehler (10) run together during their meet at Northrop. The meet is the only meets the girls run that is separated by grades.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Notre Dame, USC's epic battle an instant classic

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-In-Chief

A few weeks ago, Disney released *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, the story of young Francis Ouimet and his quest for U.S. Open glory. And though a 20-year old peasant boy beating a seasoned golf legend is without a doubt a memorable piece of history, the story that unfolded in South Bend last weekend gives it a run for its money. The atmosphere was unbelievable. The scenario perfect. The only thing missing at the end of the night was the delirium and field-storming of the Notre Dame faithful. But oh how close they came.

The hype generated from the USC Trojan's visit was unlike any I've seen as a Notre Dame follower. More than 45,000 packed Notre Dame stadium the night before the game to listen to football legends like Joe Montana and Tim Brown speak at the pep rally. A rocking, sold-out Notre Dame stadium shook for the first 10,797 seconds of the game but was left in stunned silence for the final three.

Trailing by three with 23 seconds left, Trojans QB Matt Leinart had USC at the Notre Dame four. He rolled out and attempted to take it in himself as the clock ticked down. He was unable to break the plane of the goal line and fumbled the ball out of bounds at the one. Chaos broke loose throughout Notre Dame stadium and fans rushed the field as the clock ticked down to zero. But the bliss was short lived, however, as the officials determined that because Leinart fumbled out of bounds, the clock should have stopped, and seven seconds was added to the game. Instead of calling a time out and regrouping, Leinart put USC's season on the line, sealing another Trojan comeback win with a QB sneak with three seconds left. Bedlam erupted on the Trojan sideline and in the USC cheering section as the Trojans extended their unbeaten streak to 28 games, dropping the dejected Irish to 4-2.

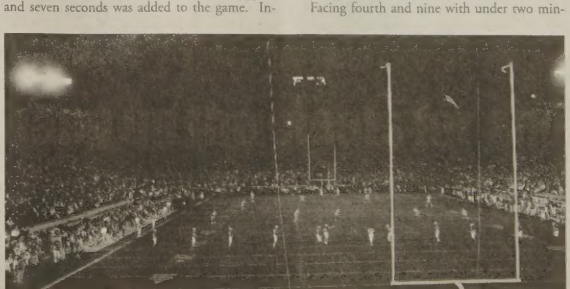


PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

But no matter the outcome, both teams played extraordinarily well, matching each other toe to toe until the very end. Outstanding (and at times daring) play calling was demonstrated by both teams throughout, but in the end USC showed why they are the number one team in the land.

Facing fourth and nine with under two minutes remaining, Leinart threw a perfect 61-yard catch and run to Dwayne Jarrett to set up the Trojans on the winning drive.

For a while, it looked like Notre Dame would add USC to their historic list of streak stopping upsets. But they could not deliver the knock out punch. However, the Irish should be proud of the way the played, the way they fought back and took the lead late.

I did not have the opportunity to watch the game from the seats last Saturday, unfortunately. Neither did I have the chance to watch it on television. "No, I was at the wedding of a family friend for most of the historic contest. Sneaking out of the reception dinner, I jumped into the family van, turned up the radio, and listened to the final seven minutes unfold.

I soon found myself pacing through the parking lot, car door wide open as the call of the game blared over the speakers. I had visions of running into the reception and announcing to the four hundred people inside of Notre Dame's historic victory. Instead I was left feeling quite silly standing in the middle of the Marriot parking lot with my head in my hands.

But something magical was in the air that night. Even as I stood, miles away from the action and unable to see anything unfold, I could sense the importance of that game to college football fans everywhere. The intensity and heartbreak could be felt even through the radio waves.

Gene Wojciechowski, an ESPN.com contributor, was in the locker room after the Trojan's win. According to Woj's weekly column, Charlie Weis made one of the classiest moves a college football coach could make. He stepped into the visitor's locker room after the game and spoke briefly to USC players and coaches. The room hushed as Weis spoke these words:

"That was a hard-fought [expletive] battle," Weis said.

I couldn't agree more, Charlie.

Girls try to find stride for semi-state

By Luke Chase
Writer

The Girls Varsity Cross Country team ran well prior to tournament play at invitationals and placed forth at the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Sectional at IPFW on Tuesday October 11. A well-run race at the Bellmont Regional just last Saturday earned them a slot in the New Haven Semi-State race coming this coming Saturday the 22nd.

When the cross-country team runs at an invitational it does not effect whether or not they run at sectionals or regionals. The invitationals prepare the team mentally and physically for the tournament said Coach Wyss. This is part of what makes the sport unique. Also unlike some other sports once the race has begun a runner cannot be substituted, if they are unable to finish the race the record reads "did not finish."

The team ran in seven invitationals before the IHSAA Sectionals on October 5th at IPFW.

"The fastest or healthiest seven girls are your 'top seven' and that's who you run in the race," said Coach Wyss. This is similar to the method used an invitational race. Because the scoring is done on this system the need for a permanent roster is practically eliminated because it has the potential to change with every race.

"At this point in the season the top seven rarely changes unless there is illness or injury to one of the team's top seven," said Coach Wyss. Which has held true, the top finishers in the tournament play are not only the same among tournament races but also during the invitationals did these girls perform well. Alex Battell (12) held the team's best time for both sectionals and regionals.

Earlier this year Alex Battell (12), Ashley Burkhart (12), and Kelsey Knapp (10) were all named as some of the teams more consistently excellent performers. All of these runners have participated in and preformed well in state save Ashley Burkhart (12) due to injury. The team has well experienced seniors who place well and will me missed next year.

Homestead girls came in fourth at sectionals at IPFW. The top seven girls were Alex Battell (12), Kelsey Knapp (10), Ashley Burkhat (12), Erin Blum (11), Emily Nestel (12), Beth Niner (11), and Erin Quinn (10). The seven scoring team members placed within the top forty-seven runners and the best placement was thirteenth, by Battell.

Because they were among the top five teams at sectionals, HHS Girls Cross Country advanced onto the Bellmont Regional this past Saturday and one step closer to an appearance at state.

At the Bellmont Regional on Saturday, October 15 the team placed fourth again. Battell, Knapp, Blum, Niner, Nestel, Quinn, and Amanda Kingsbery (11), comprised the varsity team. Battell led the team with a fifteenth place finish, and all the runners finished within the top fifty-one runners at Bellmont.

The top five teams from sectionals advanced to regionals and the top five from regionals will go to the New Haven Semi-State on this coming Saturday, October 22. The top five teams from Semi-State will advance to state on October 29 at Terre Haute.

At state there will be the top twenty teams. Also running at state will be the top fifteen individuals. HHS Girls Cross Country has make it to the state finals for ten consecutive years and is still in the running to make it eleven. They return to IPFW for the Semi-State competition.

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Left: Kelsey Knapp (10) passes a Snider runner during the sectional meet. **Right:** Ashley Burkhart (12)

Varsity Cross Country Rosters

Boys:
Steve Clark
Brian Graham
Andrew Schroeder
Galen Harden
Danny White
Mike Townsend
Evan Hanley

Girls:
Alex Battell
Kelsey Knapp
Erin Blum
Amanda Kingsbery
Emily Nestel
Erin Quinn
Beth Niner
(Semi-state will be held at IPFW)

Striving For Excellence

With a fourth place finish at conference, boys cross country advance to semi-state for first time in six years

By Megan Miller
Writer

The Varsity Boys Cross Country team has not given up yet. Finishing fourth in their conference, the boys are looking to sectionals and state. Danny White (11) said, "It's not going to be easy, but I know we are able to do very well."

The conference meet was held on Wednesday, October 5, at IPFW. Steve Clark (12), Homestead's top runner did not let the team down one bit. He finished 5th at conference, with a time of 16:47. Steve Clark (12) said, "Now that meet is over, I'm just trying to focus on the next meets."

Brian Graham (10) also did an excellent job, placing 14th, with a time of 17:11, not far behind Clark (12). Graham said, "I thought I did alright. I didn't get my best time, but it wasn't bad."

In 19th, came Andrew Schroeder (11), with a time of 17:19. Not far off, Michael Townsend (10) finished 24th with a time of 17:34. And running must run in the family because Ben Townsend (12) was next, placing 30th. He might not have gotten his personal record, but he had a strong finish with a time of 17:46. Townsend said, "I just haven't been myself lately. Hurting my leg has really let me down. I just wish I could go back to running like I normally do."

> *"Now that meet is over, I'm just trying to focus on the next meets."*
>
> Steve Clark (12)
> Varsity Cross Country Runner

Danny White (11), finished strong in 44th with a time of 18:18. Not feeling himself either, he managed to pull through. Galen Harden (11) was right behind him, finishing 45th with a time of 18:19. White (11) said, "Galen and I weren't running as good as we could have. We just stayed together and pushed each other to the end."

The team normally dresses in their team jackets or they dress up for school on the days of meets; however, not this time. Steve Prefontaine, one of the fastest runners ever to live was the theme of this team. Dying at age 24, Steve Prefontaine broke several records. Going from hometown hero, to record-setting college phenomenon. Prefontaine, known as "Pre" was said to, "develop this hunger to be the best in the field, and more, to do it with style -- to create beauty when he ran, to show people something they had never seen before." With that in mind, some of the guys honored him. "Pre" always had a mustache. He was known to be the man with the mustache. Also, this man was so fast that people wore shirts saying, "Stop Pre" on the front. What did some of the boys do? They grew mustaches. Chris Miller (12), Steve Clark (12) and Ben Townsend (12) decided to grow mustaches. May I say, some grew faster than others. Also, the day of the meet, they all wore leather jackets, in his honor. Steve Clark (12) even wore a shirt saying, "Stop Clark" on the front. They did this all in hopes to run as fast as "Pre," maybe they didn't run as fast, but they all did very well.

Looking to some tough upcoming meets, the team has a challenge ahead of them. Hoping they can continue to focus and maintain the endurance built up all season, they plan to blow the competition away.

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Homestead begins the varsity cross country race at sectionals. **Right:** Galen Harden

SACS' White Elephant: Drug Testing

Fuzzy Edges

Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

A student on the playground was tearing up his homework and scattering the pieces on the grounds.

"Why are you doing that?" asked the teacher.

"To keep the elephants away, sir," said the boy.

"But there are no elephants!" shouted the teacher.

"Just goes to show you how effective my shredding was, doesn't it?" replied the boy.

SACS is dealing with elephants too. A few weeks ago, a federal grant worth 480,000 dollars landed on SACS doorstep. Starting in January, the administration hopes to test 30-40 students at this school each week, and a further 15 each from the middle schools. At the end of the semester, SACS will present test results to the school board, and to the public.

But what if only a tiny percentage of students have tested positive? I'll make a prediction: if a large percentage of students are caught…the reaction will be: "Look at the effects of our testing!" and if few students are caught, the reaction will be: "Look at the deterrent our testing has become!" So much for elephants…

Anita Gross, district social worker, believes the program will be continued regardless of the results of the testing. Gross, like many administrators, feels that despite the actual results of the test, the benefits of drug testing go beyond the number of kids caught.

"Part of our goal [with drug testing] is to give [students] a valid reason just to say 'no' to drugs in the first place," Gross said.

While Gross and others feel that drug testing is an effective deterrent, prominent studies have contradicted this point. Dr. Lloyd D. Johnston, in conjunction with the University of Michigan, conducted a study of 76,000 students (published in the April 2003 Journal of School Health,) and concluded that drug testing did not have an impact on illicit drug use among students.

"I don't think [drug testing] brings about any constructive changes in [students'] attitudes about drugs or their belief in the dangers associated with using them."

What SACS has decided is, despite the results, drug testing is the only option to keep kids safe. If drug testing fails to find a substantial amount of students testing positive, the district will claim that testing has become an effective deterrent.

Though the federal grant cannot be spent on anything but drug testing, donated funds could be reallocated towards counseling, weekly programming or other anti-drug strategies should testing prove a failure. And if donors would be willing to spread their money to more pressing issues…perhaps science and music wouldn't have to ride on a cart in the elementary schools; or Covington's hallways wouldn't look like an LA highway at rush hour.

When the results of drug testing are published, some may call for an end to testing. SACS should remember that there are more important issues about drug testing than the allocation of federal monies. Students' rights must not be violated for a program that fails…and SACS shouldn't keep looking for elephants in the midst of Indiana cornfields.

Parking lot hazards

Traffic on school grounds poses danger to drivers

Homestead's parking lot is more congested then ever before. Recent developments such as the Freshmen Academy and the reduction of exits have only exacerbated this problem.

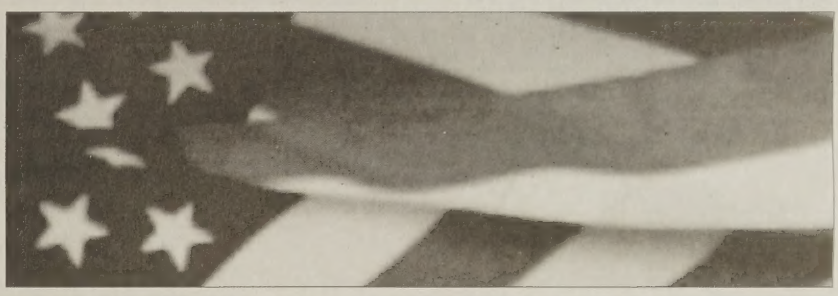
As of now, there are only two exits students and faculty can use to exit campus. A third exit that students were allowed to use last year has been closed down because of the increased traffic from the freshmen academy. Though this measure was taken with good intention, it has not worsened nor helped the problem.

The lack of exits from the school creates a bottle neck effect moving through it can take over 10 minutes to leave. The congestion causes many students to rush out to their cars right after school, or drive fast in the parking lot in hopes of being able to escape before the inevitable traffic jam starts. This can often have dangerous consequences. With students, speeding accidents, (sometimes involving more than two cars,) are bound to happen. Recently, a five car pileup resulted in part because of the excessive traffic in the lot.

The editorial board believes that one way to partly alleviate the traffic problem is to open the exit on Aboite Center Road for students to use after school. This would make it easier for students, in particular juniors, to leave quickly from the campus. Some may argue opening the Aboite Center Road exit is dangerous to both student drivers and parents who are coming to pick up their children from the academy. However, the current situation where the over 300 student drivers are trying to leave at the same time from the same two entrances is far more dangerous. Another solution to the traffic problem is to construct new exits or add more lanes to the current exits to facilitate smoother traffic flow. If some of these measures are taken, the editorial board is confident that the possibility of getting into accidents will be greatly reduced.

Dissenting Opinion:

Although there is no doubt that a severe traffic problem exists in the Homestead parking lot, opening the exit on Aboite Center will not solve the problem. Rather, such action would be dangerous to all drivers. Juniors, many of whom are new drivers, will be forced to share a small exit with numerous parents going to the academy, the probability of getting in an accident will no doubt increase. Building new exits will solve the problem, and should solve the problem.



Pledge gives Americans something to believe in

Luke Walker and Andy Wirtner
Conservative Columnists

If you don't want to, you don't have to. It really isn't a big deal. It's not a matter of life and death, and it's not a moralistic last stand against opposing ideologies. So if standing up for the Pledge of Allegiance just isn't your thing, then that's all right. If you want to protest the problems in our country by abstaining from the Pledge, that's all right too. Take a seat and keep quiet. Nobody is making you do anything.

But give a moment's thought to the implications of it.

America is a community, a big, continent-spanning community of millions. There are as many opinions and views and political doctrines in this country as there are people, and that is part of what makes us great. The freedom to express our ideas and challenge the status-quo and protest and boycott is part of what makes us great. The ability to call our President names and shout from the rooftops that America is crumbling at the seams is part of what makes us great. Without freedom of speech and expression, we would be nothing.

But what also makes us great is our unity. What also makes us great is the fact that, for all our disagreements and arguments, we can come together as Americans to achieve great things as a national community. We can voice dissent and anger and still stand under Old Glory and be Americans together. And we can recognize the fact that the flaws of our country do not necessitate a mindless revolution, but intelligent and active change from within the system. We can work together and be a nation.

> *"Standing up in the morning and saying the Pledge of Allegiance may not make us great... But it makes up a little more cohesive... a little more unified"*
>
> Luke Walker (12) and Andy Wirtner (12)
> Conservative Volumnists

Standing up in the morning and saying the Pledge of Allegiance may not make us great. It's not the cornerstone of America's existence. After all, the Pledge is only words. Just a symbol. But it makes us a little more cohesive. It makes us a little more unified. And, maybe, it does make us great.

It is also part of the all-too-tenuous ideological background that makes America what it is. It's a part of America that represents our unity and our faith in ourselves. It's kind of a way of saying, "Hey, America, I know we don't get along all the time. That's the way it is. But that's not going to change that fact that, underneath it all, this is a good country. Maybe the best. And I'll do what I can to make it work out. I'll do what I can to change for the better."

The Pledge is a small part of what we all have to believe. And we have to believe in something, because America is a community, and you can't build a strong community on a sneer.

The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect those of the Spartana or its staff.

A riot of my own

Underlying message of hippies skewed by society

By Jim Katz
Writer

High schools seem to be particularly good at categorizing and pigeon-holing people. Everyone must fall into a group. The jocks, the nerds, the popular, the goths, and the perpetual troublemakers. Sounds like "The Breakfast Club." There is one group left out: the hippies.

But what exactly designates a hippie? It is long, unkempt hair? Is it tie-dyed tee shirts? Is it listening to "hippie music," such as The Grateful Dead, Phish, and Jimi Hendrix? Is it having a progressive frame of reference, wishing for peace, justice, and a slower-paced life? I have been called a hippie many times, and it seems to me that people don't really understand the term.

> *Take a deep breath. Listen to some music. Play some guitar. I'm not advocating dropping out of school or drug use. Just slow down and come hear Uncle John's band. We'll all be better for it.*
>
> Jim Katz (12)
> Columnist

The term "hippie" evolved out of the term "hipster," which was used to describe the jazz musicians and beat poets of the 1940s and 50s. The entire hippie culture evolved from the beat culture of Jack Kerouac, Alan Ginsburg, and the entire counterculture of Greenwich Village. From them came the early hippies of the early 1960s, the folk music enthusiasts, based around Joan Baez, Pete Seeger, and the young and vibrant Bob Dylan. This was the group epitomized by Dylan's song "Blowing in the Wind."

By the mid to late 1960s, the next phase of hippies had arisen in both San Francisco and Los Angeles. The Haight-Ashbury neighborhood in San Francisco created The Grateful Dead and the Sunset strip of Los Angeles created The Doors. This new brand of hippies is best known for the 1967 "Summer of Love" and the 1969 Woodstock festival.

With the dawn of the 1970s, the sun began to set on the hippie movement. With the break up of The Beatles, the end of the Vietnam War, and the rise of punk music, hippie moved back into obscurity. The main attraction that kept the movement going was The Grateful Dead and those who followed the band around the country. Since then Jerry Garcia, the front man of the Grateful Dead, died in 1995. Phish picked up some of the slack, but they broke up last year.

The general beliefs of a hippie include peace, challenging the suburban way of life, and introspective thought, oftentimes through eastern religions and drugs. Drugs first became a part of the hippie movement with the advent of drug use to expand one's mind by Harvard professor Timothy Leary. Since then, the terms hippie and drug-user have become synonymous, though many hippies do not use drugs.

In recent years the term "hippie" has obtained negative connotations. It implies someone who smokes marijuana, believes in progressive politics, and does not care for work, responsibility, or hygiene. Anyone who fits just one trait is categorized as a hippie by modern culture, as though being a hippie is a bad thing.

The truth is we all could use a dose of hippie philosophy, especially in our high school and college years. In today's high stress world of college admissions, interviews, and the looming reality of choosing a career and entering the working world, everyone needs to take a step back. Take a deep breath. Listen to some music. Play some guitar. I'm not advocating dropping out of school or drug use. Just slow down and come hear Uncle John's band. We'll all be better for it.

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Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to *The Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

EYE CONTACT: OLD CENTER SCHOOL

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

The Spartana photo editor, Zach Hetrick, explores the 112 year old Center School with historian, school care taker Linda Huge and two former students

Top: Items that would have been present in 1893, such as quills and readers, are present today to give the allusion of being in the19th Century .

Above: Ed and Pauline Hurley attended Center school from 1939 until 1946 when it closed. Pauline continued her education at Jefferson Center, while he attended Arcola.

Left: Originally the school house sat on the corner of what is now Aboite Center Road and Homestead Road. This was the center of Aboite Township. In June of 1993, the schoolhouse was moved east on Aboite Center Road.

Bottom right: Mrs. Huge, the schoolmarm, has cared for and staffed the old school since the early 70's. She entertains and educates children from SACS with her impersonation of a school teacher in the 1890s.

Bottom left: Each desk has chalk and boards for students to use when they come for visits.

OLD CENTER SCHOOL INFORMATION

CENTER SCHOOL IS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF ABOITE CENTER ROAD AND HOMESTEAD ROAD IN THE CENTER OF ABOITE TOWNSHIP. THE BELL TOWER, THE LOGO FOR SACS, STILL RINGS TODAY AND CAN BE HEARD FROM OVER A MILE AWAY. THE SCHOOL WAS RESTORED IN 1995. THIS RESTORATION WON AN ARCHIE AWARD FROM THE ARCH FOUNDATION IN 1995. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSES FREQUENTLY TRAVEL TO THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT SCHOOL WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. SCHOOLMARM, LINDA HUGE, HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT THE SCHOOL SINCE 1972.

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fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

Moments
2005 is almost over. Page 1A holds the best pictures of 2005, 258 of them, to be exact, with commentary from Austin Hetrick. 4A

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PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

Kesha Bartholeme (12) performs a back one-and-a-half pike dive.

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NEWS BRIEFS

KEY CLUB
Key Club has recently finished collecting CDs for troops. Mrs. Walker's first period class won the doughnut and juice breakfast by donating 93 CDs. Key club meetings are held from 2:50 - 3:15.

SHOW CHOIR
The Show Choirs will be hosting their annual Cabaret Night on February 3, 2006 at 5:30 pm in the auditorium. The public may purchase the $10.00 Cabaret Night door prize/dessert/performance tickets by contacting Marta Vaillancourt, Chair, at 672-8859, by e-mail at vmarta2@hotmail.com, or by purchasing them from any Show Choir member.

SPEECH AND DEBATE TEAM
Members of the speech and debate teams have placed very high at various competitions. Students who are interested in joining should talk to English teacher Travis Fisher, or attend one of the meetings on Tuesdays after school.

BUSINESS AWARD
Gayle Topp, a business teacher at Homestead, was recently awarded with the Apple Award at the Indiana business Education Association's Conference. This honor is given out to persons who do outstanding work for the Indiana Department of Education.

2006 - 2007 SCHEDULE
The '06 -'07 SACS calendar has been adopted by the school board. With two additional "snow-make up days" in April and May, school will end on May 30.

First drug testing results released

BY THE NUMBERS

40% of HHS students reported using marijuana in the last year

$480,000 amount of grant given to the drug testing program

100 students tested so far

0 positive tests

By Austin Hetrick, with reporting by Zach Hetrick
Copy Editor and Photo Editor

None of the 100 students tested thus far were found positive for illicit drugs. The results were first published in a November 13 Journal Gazette article by Krista Stockman.

Anita Gross, chairwoman of the No Alcohol/No Drug Task Force (NAND) explained her stance on the results.

"100 tests out of over 1600 students in the testing pool is really too few to [draw] any clear conclusions," Gross said. "Whenever you are doing a drug test you must remember that it is like taking a snapshot picture: it only tells you what is there at the time of the test, not a history."

Currently, ten students each week are tested. The rate of testing will in-

see DRUGS, on page 2A

MORE ON DRUG TESTING
page 3A, in an editorial cartoon cartoonist Shane Lutrell illustrates his opinion on drug testing.

NSPA PACEMAKER AWARD

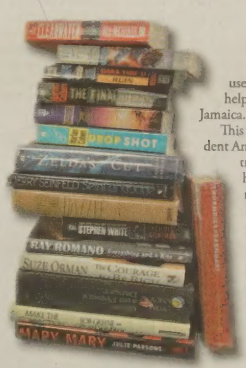
The Spartana was awarded a National Pacemaker award for the 2004 - 2005 publication from the National Scholastic Press Association. The Spartana was one of 16 high schools in the world to receive this award. The current volume of The Spartana received third in the 'Best of Show' category; the highest rating that Homestead has ever received. Kara Wall, Tyler Churchward, and Larry Buchanan also received individual awards at the convention.

Project Jamaica

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

BUNDLES of BOOKS

Student Government collects books; profits from T-shirt sales will build library in Kingston, Jamaica



By Laura Summers
Writer

Student Government is collecting used and new books and selling T-shirts to help raise funds to build a library in Kingston, Jamaica.

This past summer, student government president Anna Menze (12) went on a medical mission trip all the way to Kingston, Jamaica. There, her group planned to provide medical treatment to children and adults who couldn't afford it. During her stay, she visited

see JAMAICA, on page 2A

"[At first] it looked like any normal city in America, [but] It was definitely a culture shock."

-Anna Menze (12)
Executive Board President

BY THE NUMBERS: PROJECT JAMAICA

6 SACS schools involved in the project	$4000 needed to build the library	$10 for a Project Jamaica T-Shirt	12,000 books donated so far

PHOTOS ANNA MENZE

Top: Brian Laipple (11) and Ashley Rohlfing (12) box up donated books for the Jamaican children. Other: Jamaican children, from Anna Menze's (12) mission trip, are pictured.

'Urinetown' denied, 'Cabaret' chosen as spring musical

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The award-winning musical "Cabaret" has been chosen to be this year's annual spring production. The decision was announced by the administration in early November and the show will be performed the first two weekends in May.

"Cabaret," which has around 20 roles, takes place in pre-WWII Germany, where the cultural climate of the country is quickly changing. The Nazis have begun their rise to power, and the Jews are becoming increasingly concerned with persecution by the government. The show centers on the Kit Kat Club, a decadent

see CABARET, on page 2A

CONTROVERSIAL MUSICALS OF THE PAST

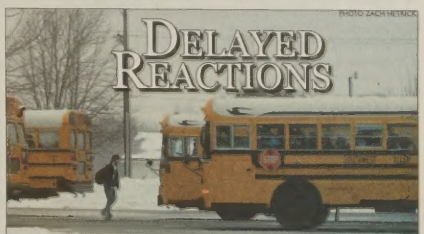
Les Mis ('03): controversial because of violence, suggestive material

Bat Boy ('04): controversial because of rape, violence (this play was not produced)

Jack the Ripper ('04): controversial because of satanic material and violence

Urinetown ('05): controversial because of the name (this play was not produced)

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK



Snow causes two-hour delays, cancellations

By Puja Parikh,
with reporting by Austin Hetrick and Larry Buchanan

Christine Hansen pulled stopped her car in a ditch a few weeks back. It was a morning full of ice, and for Christine it was a frightening experience. "A volunteer fireman had to pull me out," Hansen said.

Students have begun complaining about the lack of delays; either that, or the fact that many delays seem unnecessary. As most students know, delays are called based on weather conditions.

see DELAYS, on page 2A

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Megan Farmer (11), Kelly Edelman (11), Logan Gonor (11), and Clarissa Gleason (11) hold candles from the NHS induction ceremony. 99 juniors were inducted into the organization.

'Making the school a better place'

NHS continues service to students, community

By Jim Katz
Writer

For the past 30 years the school has held a chapter of an organization with a reputation for recognizing excellence and serving school communities around the country through tutoring and other service projects: the National Honors Society.

In order to be a member of the school's National Honors Society chapter, a student is a judged upon GPA (a 10.0, or an A- average), and must be affirmed by the faculty.

"They are judged on their integrity and honesty," Alex Desch (12), a member of the executive board said.

Beyond Clough, the school's National Honors Society has a six-member, seniors-only executive board to help organize and run the chapter. One of the board's first jobs was to organize and run the induction ceremony.

During the course of the year, National Honors Society organizes a variety of service projects to benefit the school and greater community. Every week, Monday-through-Thursday, from 2:40 until 3:15, in the IMC, there is tutoring which is provided free-of-charge. This project will most likely be expanded to serve Summit Middle School later this year. Other projects include providing a custodian breakfast, resource room data-taking, computer assistance to faculty, and working at a PBS telethon. The newest venture for National Honors Society is to knit 100 "chemo-caps" for Lutheran Hospital by the end of May. "Chemo-caps" are for cancer patients, 20 years of age, or younger.

"These are essential gear for children recovering from cancer, who lose heat through their bare heads during chemotherapy, and need the caps to contain the heat and stay warm," Steven Clough, the National Honors Society advisor for the past several years, said of the newest project.

A knitters group has recently begun meeting after school to begin tackling the task.

On Wednesday, November 16, the National Honors Society hosted its annual induction ceremony in the school's auditorium. To begin the evening, seniors who were new members were inducted. Following this, all of the seniors who are returning members were recognized by receiving a membership card while a Power Point presentation ran in the background, displaying both childhood and recent photographs. The final part of the induction ceremony was the official induction of the juniors (all 99 of them). Each inductee received "the key of knowledge," a candle which represented "the light of understanding," and a membership certificate. There was a reception in the cafeteria following the ceremony, where the new inductees signed their names in a book which holds the names of all the school's inductees since 1990. In total, there are fewer than 200 members currently serving.

The underlying message of National Honors Society goes far beyond just recognizing academically-successful students.

"We're here to help our school, students, and staff in any way," Saad Saffo (12), another member of the executive board said. "We base a lot of our efforts into making our school a better place for everyone."

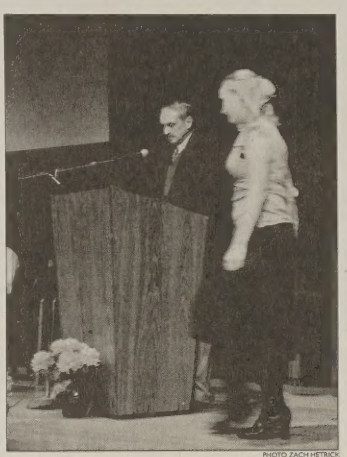


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Steve Clough, NHS adviser, announces names of the new NHS members at the induction ceremony. The new members each received a certificate, a candle, and a key.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Jenny Shao
Saad Saffo
Alex Desch
Javed Sayed
Caroline Rodebeck
Michael Dorko

Delays, continued from 1A

"Television and news reports make [delays] difficult because we can't explain why we're delaying or canceling because their processes are automated," Smith said. "When I call, I don't have the option of saying "fog," or "ice," but simply "2 hour delay," or "cancelled." We tend to call more delays and cancellations earlier in the season so that drivers can adjust to the conditions."

In order to allow safe commutes to school, the transportation director, Ike Doll, is up each morning by 3:00 or 4:00 AM each time there is a chance of bad weather. Doll spends two hours driving throughout the county and observing the weather conditions.

"What's important to remember is that conditions could look fine here [in the northern part of SACS], while out in the other counties there could be drifting or other problems," Smith said. Smith also added that the first bus leaves at 6:00 A.M., so delays must be called by 5:45. The major reason as to why SACS is receiving so much criticism is because many students and parents feel that many delays are unnecessary.

"It's a difficult situation," Smith said. "For example, a few weeks ago we had a delay while no other districts had one. What people didn't know is that the company that plows [Homestead's] lots was busy the day before, and because of the time they plowed, our parking lots became skating rinks while other roads were clear. That was the real reason we delayed that day."

Many roads aren't salted when delays are called early in the morning. SACS Administrators can't assume that the roads will be clear. "We're often in a difficult situation," Smith said. "Some parents would like delays called earlier. Some parents don't see the need for a delay while in another area, a delay might truly be necessary."

Recently, the administration has been looking into three-hour delays. When asked about this new measure, Smith responded by saying that the teachers were just now weighing-in on the idea: "…we're not even sure we will propose it to [to the school board]. The three-hour delays refer to adding an hour [to the end of the day.] The idea is designed so that we could avoid adding more days at the end of the year. But, conflicts arise from parents who pick up their students, elementary students who need day care, or students who work after school."

While SACS is considering this idea, Huntington has already been calling three-hour delays for some time. However, as Smith pointed out, conflicts arise from every idea. "It's not an exact science, but we've got to use common sense and information to keep people safe," Smith said. "I'm on pins and needles until every bus comes home safe."

Cabaret, continued from 1A

nightclub in Germany. Intertwined with the night club are three separate story lines: the love affair between an older couple, the "main attraction" at the Kit Kat Klub, Sally Bowles, and finally the bisexual author who falls in love with her. Narrating and commenting throughout the musical is the emcee of the Kit Kat Klub, who is also known as the Master of Ceremonies to the other characters.

There are three versions of "Cabaret" available. The original script was done in the 1960's, while the one that will be done in the spring is from 1987. The third version was redone in 1998, but it is unavailable for high schools.

"It's about how far people are willing to go to stay alive," Ed Koczergo, director of "Cabaret," said. "It should resonate with a lot of young people."

In past years, Koczergo has been able to choose the musicals he puts on, but he has since been put under prior review by the administration after the "Batboy" cancellation last spring.

"By agreement, Mr. Koczergo is to run ideas past Mrs. Moake, who reads through them and agrees or disagrees with the choices. Mr. Koczergo is then allowed to pick from the approved musicals. This time, however, it was not his choice because two were submitted and only one was approved," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said.

As early as last May, Koczergo had the rights to direct "Urinetown," a comedy about a government that forces its citizens to pay to use the bathroom. He submitted "Urinetown" to the administration in July and was told he would receive an answer by mid-August. In late October, he was told by the administration that he needed to submit another musical. Finally, in November, Koczergo was told the administration had chosen "Cabaret" over "Urinetown."

Bay was involved in the selection process. She researched the musical, read parts of the script, and listened to the music.

"There was nothing wrong with it content-wise. We just didn't think it was right for this time because of what happened with "Batboy" last year. Mrs. Moake read through "Cabaret" and decided it was the better choice at this time. "Cabaret" is a lot more well-known than "Urinetown" and ["Urinetown's"] title alone was a turn-off at first. But content-wise, there was nothing really wrong with it," Bay said. Koczergo disagreed, saying that a musical should not be chosen simply because of the name.

"I think they didn't allow it because they didn't want the word "Urinetown" sprawled across [the marquee] out front," Koczergo said. He was surprised at the administration's choice because of "Cabaret's" suggestive content.

"I find it stunningly hard to believe they chose this over "Urinetown." ["Cabaret"] includes abortion, premarital intercourse, and the emcee does a song that suggests living with multiple people," Koczergo said.

At the same time, Koczergo is very excited to do the show this spring.

"I'm thrilled the administration is willing to stick their necks out on this one," Koczergo said.

Koczergo realizes that "Cabaret" will probably cause some controversy from those who know the play and object to the administration's decision.

"I know there will be people who will stick their noses into this…People are entitled to their opinions, but when it interferes with school and education, then it becomes a problem…But the administration made the decision this time," Koczergo said.

Drug Testing, continued from 1A

crease to 30-40 students each week following Christmas break because of a federal grant the district received. Gross maintains that drug testing still provides a valid excuse for students to say "no" to drugs.

"…the urine drug tests are accurate but have limitations," Gross said. "Students need to remember that random drug testing is only one reason to say no to illegal alcohol and drug use."

Gross believes that results do not necessarily display the effectiveness of testing and NAND programs. Much of the push for drug testing and increased NAND projects resulted from a 2003 survey in which 40% of students admitted to trying marijuana in the past year.

"We will be repeating the student-use survey from the Indiana Prevention Resource Center in the spring of 2006," Gross said. "This will give us data that we can directly compare with the data from 2003. This data will help us evaluate the overall effectiveness of all the NAND projects."

Some students find the results confirmation of their suspicions.

"I think it's really the student's choice whether or not to do drugs and testing just doesn't influence that," Andy Rosenblatt (11) said.

"I'm surprised that the first 100 came back negative," Kurt Nettleton (12) said. "But [students] had every knowledge of the tests coming, including the quality of the tests the administration is giving, and plenty of kids are getting away with drug-use."

Other students agree with Gross that the testing remains an effective deterrent.

"I think that the idea of drug testing is still valid," Jessica Skiba (11) said. "But I think that if everyone, not just a random group of kids, took the drug tests, it might be more effective."

"The only way drug testing is going to have the desired effect is if [the administration] keeps at it," Hari Vasu (11) said. "I think the excuse is still valid. In band, Mr. Barber told us to make good choices because the organization can't be losing people because of the drug testing. People that care about the activities they're involved in will take [the testing] into consideration. Granted, it will help a ton if someone gets caught and the consequences can be seen in effect."

Lloyd D. Johnson PHD, a social scientist at the University of Michigan commented on the results.

"It is a little surprising that no cases of marijuana use were located, given the level of self-reported use in the student population [at Homestead]," Johnson said.

Johnson had a few ideas as to why no positives were found.

"There could be a number of reasons, one being that the use was not occurring in the time of year that the testing was conducted, another being that students knew that the tests were coming and stayed clean during that period, and a third being that users "missed" their tests or found ways to fake clean urines. Marijuana use is usually detectable for up to a month after use in urine tests."

Johnson (with Ryoko Yamaguchi and Patrick M. O'Malley, also of the U of M) conducted a study of the effectiveness of random drug testing in American high schools published in the April 2003 edition of the Journal of School Health. The study, conducted over several years and involving over 76,000 students, found that: "…among the eigth-tenth, and 12th-grade students surveyed in [the] study, school drug testing was not associated with either the prevalence or the frequency of student marijuana use, or of other illicit drug use."

Other studies have concluded the opposite. In June, 2001, Dr. Joseph McKinney, chair of the department of educational leadership at Ball State University and member of the Student Drug Testing Coalition, conducted a survey of 71 high school principals. McKinney's study followed an Indiana Appellate court decision which temporarily halted drug testing. McKinney's results were based on the responses of principals of Indiana high schools that had drug policies at the time.

85 percent of principals reported an increase of drug or alcohol usage once drug testing was removed, and there was a significant increase in drug-related incidents following the temporary ban.

McKinney drew this conclusion in 2004 from his study: "Random drug testing policies appear to provide a strong tool for schools to use in the battle to reduce alcohol and drug usage amongst teens…this study does show that random drug testing policies are effective in reducing the temptation to use drugs and alcohol."

McKinney was unavailable for comment on Homestead's first results .

Menze encountered many groups of Jamaican children who were fascinated with American speakers.

Books, continued from 1A

with the young people while the doctors and nurses she was with, helped others. Menze noticed that the villages had no libraries and very few schools, and that all of the children were almost exclusively poor.

"This was my first time out of the country. We flew into Kingston and it looked like any normal city in America. It was definitely a culture shock, because I wasn't expecting to see a lack of electricity in the villages outside the city. All of the houses were very tiny, and the majority of them usually held more than one family. Although I was only down there for a week, seeing the difference in our communities was definitely a life changing experience."

"We visited one school where the kids were so excited to see us. We bought and read to them several different books; the teachers were so happy that they started crying," Menze said.

Once Menze came up with her idea to build a library, she brought it to the student government. From there, the project progressed quickly. Since the project has done well and many books have been collected (about 12,000), more than $4,000 may be needed to build a larger library. About $3,000 has been raised. Student government is selling T-shirts for ten dollars and taking book donations: new and used. Five other schools in SACS are helping with Project Jamaica.

Other sources in the community are helping. A Ft. Wayne community group known as the Junior League is collecting books. The radio station 94.1 has agreed to help, and is publicizing the project.

Book donations and T-shirt purchases will be accepted through the first week back from winter break (January 6). T-shirts are sold in the back room.

Menze is quite pleased with the success of Project Jamaica.

"It's allowed students to seek outside themselves and think of those that have never had a book to read or had the experience of entering a library."

Editorial Cartoon - Random Drug Testing
by Shane Luttrell

Administrators should be open about discipline, truth could dispel rumors

Rumor has it that some disciplinary action was taken against students last week. Rumor has it that students were punished. Rumor has it. And rumor will be all you will hear, because we don't know the truth.

The Spartana is dedicated to revealing the truth. But on Monday when we met with school and district administrators, we were unable to learn anything.

"If someone had a detention, I couldn't talk about that any more than I can this," Vice Principal Chris Johnson said.

Because a newspaper is bound by rules prohibiting the spread of unsupported rumors, we can't even tell you what "this" is. But many of you probably have a pretty good idea of what we mean.

The school's administrators were naturally cautious, and were instructed by higher officials to refrain from comment. They directed us to the superintendent to further our investigation. But an interview with Dr. Brian Smith yielded no new information. Many consider the corporation's silence the privilege and indeed the necessity of controlling a school. As the administrators said, they are by law unable to release names. But names were not what we requested.

The editorial board understands the difficult position that the administration is placed in. They are bound by privacy laws, disciplinary procedures, and their goals to reduce dangerous practices. As the administrators put it, they are educators, not police officers. But with the difficult position the administration has been placed, there comes a responsibility to the general public to be open.

The story that should be appearing on our front page this issue is one that includes quotes from our administration describing, in general, the incidents that took place last week.

We too are bound by rules with regards to names, and would not have published them had they been provided.

The question now becomes: What should the administration have provided us? That question is best shown with an example. The following is the lead story on Silver Springs, Maryland's Montgomery Blair High School paper:

"A female student was apprehended today in connection with three incidents of arson since yesterday afternoon. The student faces a minimum of ten days' suspension.

Ninth grade assistant principal James Short affirmed that the student was responsible for three fires that had been set inside girls' bathrooms at the school. "We believe that we have gotten the person who has committed all the fires," he said."

The paper, Silver Chips Online, also published estimates of damage, where the suspect is being held, and the charges against her. Following the apprehension, the principal announced that fact to the student body. Her name, however, was not published.

This kind of openness is unheard of at Homestead. Disciplinary actions are covered and rumors instead provide students' only information.

The excuse that the law prohibits the administration from providing information is not valid. According to the Student Press Law Center, while federally-funded high schools are not allowed to release personally identifying information, a general announcement (like that published in the Blair paper) is fully legal.

That announcement serves two purposes. Not only does it offer a glimpse into the disciplinary actions of the school, helping maintain the transparency of district actions, it also dispels rumors that can damage far more than truth ever could.

The editorial board feels that general announcements, and openness with the press, are needed for SACS and Homestead. The practice is legal, effective, and honest; and essential to a school that levels with its students, instead of hiding the truth.

Party allegiances create divides in the modern society

By Andy Wirtner and Luke Walker
Guest Writers

Political groups are a vital part of the United States government. They are used to pool ideas and to put individuals in offices. They function as a foundation for the political system. However, these groups should not be used to label individuals under dogmatic principles. Too many times I have run across individuals who proudly claim to be a Republican or Democrat. These names are fine, but the structure behind the party is the real essence behind the group. If you are going to associate yourself with a party, make sure you understand all of the issues that each party uses as its platform. For example, I do not agree with the right of abortion, which I believe is murder and that places me on the Religious Right. On the other hand I also do not believe in the death penalty, an idea that now places me with the Democrats. So now I am an individual without a party. But that may not be so bad. Understanding all of the stances of a party is vital to the functioning of our government. It bothers we when I hear people talk of the "problems" they have with their elected officials. It floors me to think that people would actually vote for people because of a label placed on them. Current approval polls for President Bush show that his rating is extremely low. The war in Iraq is becoming a major drain on American moral. It is reasonable to believe that different parties are able to hold offices better than the other. Looking back on history shows that the nation has continued to progress under varying parties since its conception. Party allegiances cause the divide that exists in today's society. They only serve to create larger and larger gaps between individuals. Most people are moderate, not strongly affiliated with either side, but the party system is set up in such a way that only the extreme left or right are choices for officials. So I urge you to be smart about using political labels. Understand that each party comes with its benefits and losses. Don't blindly follow your parents political fervor; instead, create your own definition of what you want your government to be. No party can ever fully fulfill the wants of every individual. A mix-and-match approach can bring much better results and normally contributes to a smoother running society. It's your responsibility as a citizen to make the right choices.

"Don't blindly follow your parents political favor..."

A riot of my own: *Life is a Cabaret*

By Jim Katz
Writer

"Leave your troubles outside. So, life is disappointing? Forget it! We have no troubles here. Here, life is beautiful. The girls are beautiful. Even the orchestra is beautiful."

These opening lines welcome the audience to what will be the school spring musical for this year: "Cabaret."

The story takes place in 1931 in Berlin, Germany. The story line is largely centered around the love story between Sally Bowles and Cliff Bradshaw. Sally is a British performer who is the star of the Kit Kat Klub, a nightclub in Berlin, where she lives her overly-optimistic and hopeful life. Cliff is an American author who has already written one novel and comes to Berlin in search of inspiration for his second novel.

The two meet at the Kit Kat Klub and quickly move-in together. Also, Cliff's landlady falls in love with a local grocer, who happens to be Jewish. Much of the remaining cast is made of the performers at the Kit Kat Klub, most notably being the Master of Ceremonies.

He plays a double role, as both the literal master of ceremonies, (introducing Sally before she performs,) but much the role is separated from the plot and is used to comment on the action within the play while pointing out symbolism with spine-chilling clarity.

While "Cabaret" has an interesting plot, dynamic characters, and wonderful musical numbers, what makes "Cabaret" so wonderful is the poignant and vital message that it delivers.

"...no matter how horrible reality seems, no amount of make-up and stage lights can ever hide you from the inevitable truth..."
Jim Katz
Writer

As the story takes place in 1931 in Berlin, Germany, most people automatically understand what must be happening in the background during the story.

In less than ten years, the Nazi party will take over Germany and begin its conquest of Europe and its attempt to exterminate all Jews and other minorities from their newly-conquered Europe. For many, this show's frequent illusion to and mockery of Nazism and its ominous and growing presence in Germany is appalling.

Nazism has become a taboo subject in polite company, but "Cabaret" is anything but polite. From the opening moments of the show it becomes apparent that the show is anything but reserved and subtle.

By placing this in the background, it shifts the way characters are viewed. On the surface, Cliff leaves Berlin to find somewhere else to write his novel. Sally clings to the stage she loves. The Master of Ceremonies is just a silly-looking clown. The backdrop of looming Nazism makes Cliff seem wary and wise, Sally's seem frivolous and foolish, and the Master of Ceremonies' seem sinister and sadistic.

As an actor and a student of history, a show like "Cabaret" is a superb opportunity. To have music and a message on the same stage is just what we need. "Cabaret" shows us that apathy is not the answer. No matter how wonderful your life is and no matter how horrible reality seems, no amount of make-up and stage lights can ever hide you from the inevitable truth you wish you could ignore.

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Letters can be e-mailed to *The Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

The Spartana is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA).

Drop off letters in room 620, call 431 -2261, or e-mail us at thespartana@gmail.com

mailbox

A Letter to the editor regarding:

DIRTY DANCING

Senior reflects on administration policy on dancing; says music must be changed first

As a senior, I have been to my fair share of school dances over the last four years; Semi-Formal all four years, Homecoming as a freshman and sophomore, and Prom as a junior. The only deterring factor that would steer me away from my senior prom would be the exponentially increasing ratio of incessant ,ranting about the dirty dancing issue to the amount of BAD music played at the dances. Call me crazy, but when the ONLY style of music that school is willing to play is the very same music that promotes the style of dancing they whine and moan about all year long, it would look as thought the school is almost sending out an invitation for the students to "grind" and such. It would also seem that there is a small out-cry for a better solution. Being a student, I understand that a large percent of my peers would not be happy if the DJs at the dances played songs that were not on the radio, or at the very least, their favorite radio station, but this is the most feasible solution to the problems. This was the very problem at [the recent] Semi-Formal dance. First off, there were only about three slow songs, IN A ROW! I paid $40 dollars just for the tickets alone, and for that, I would expect more, but it is a school dance, maybe I just shot too high. It may seem like a petty piece to this solution puzzle of how to make people not "grind" and such, but if there were less opportunities to do it, then people wouldn't try. Not to mention the fact that it is just a bit degrading to the ladies that spent the entire day making themselves look perfect, and then being expected to "bump and grind" all night long. Another option, in addition to playing more slow songs at a FORMAL DANCE, would be to play different styles of music, such as Swing, old 50's rock-n-roll or dance music, or even disco. These types of music would encourage different types of dancing, and at the very least people would dance differently just to have fun or be funny. Maybe I am just a radical idealist, but it seems to me that these are easy, nonabrasive, and intelligent solutions. As a student, I understand as well that there would have to be some rap songs to entice people into coming, but there are other options with that music as well. Such as happy, upbeat songs such as Run DMC, Outkast, etc. With a decrease in the amount of horrible music played at the dances, the amount of dirty dancing will also decrease.

To the administration: Do something in a constructive effort to stop the dancing or stop whining about it and playing the music that encourages it, there are too many students to stop it all together.

Sincerely,
Matt Dutiel (12)

MOMENTS OF 2005

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

column by austin hetrick, photos by zach hetrick

"How do you measure a year in the life?"

In cold mornings, yards covered, or coffee with friends? In test scores, late nights out, or school dances? But what really defines a year in a high schooler's life? What will we remember when everything else has faded? Is it friends made, friends lost, or days spent together?

When the ball falls, many of us will leave memories in 2005 of those we've left behind. Zach Gentry represented all that was bright and happy at Homestead: an athlete, a friend, a brother, a son. I never met Zach. I can't tell you about the hours we spent together, but what I can tell you about is the tears his friends shed, and the memories that they will never part with.

I lost a step-mom in 2005. Like Gentry, Pam Klein died in March, but her legacy lives. She helped her sons follow her path to journalism; her husband fought to cleanse her city of the poison that killed her. Pam never smoked a cigarette, but she died of a smoker's cancer. Just shy of a year after she collapsed, Indianapolis will go smoke free.

In 2005 many things changed at Homestead. Then again, many things stayed the same. We got wheat buns, we couldn't make it past Snider (Someday!), and we opened a new building. Students' urinating in cups was approved, but Urinetown the Musical wasn't (there's dramatic irony for you). The band practiced, Grant Leiendecker dunked, K-Sam ran, teachers taught, students slept through one more lecture. We sent funds to victims of a tsunami a world away, piled canned goods in trucks for a hurricane, and made the world a little better. Principal Moake greeted students with a smile. Gym class still meant weeks of badmitton (whoever thought up that game anyway?) Fryzel told stories, Barber paced, and Meyer had faith in Ohio State to the very end.

But how do you measure a year? Will we remember tests that we failed, arguments we had, dates that we went on, teachers who ticked us off? Probably not. The latest episode of Lost, the best line from Family Guy or Dane Cook? Nope.

I will remember the last days with Pam.
Greg will remember his first musical.
K-Sam will remember the lights.
Meg will remember her brother going to war.
Taylor will remember each strikeout.
Andrew will remember his first job.
Patrick will remember his last year as coach.
Brad will remember the cheers in the dome.
Katie will remember Fryzel's stories.
Sam will remember a friend.

As the year comes to a close, remember what's important in high school. Rather than absences and tests, measure a year in the life by your memories that will last, by your friends, by your losses, and by your loves.

If you would like copies of any of the photos used above, or photos used in any issue of *the Spartana*, they are available for purchase by contacting us at thespartana@gmail.com or by calling 431-2261.

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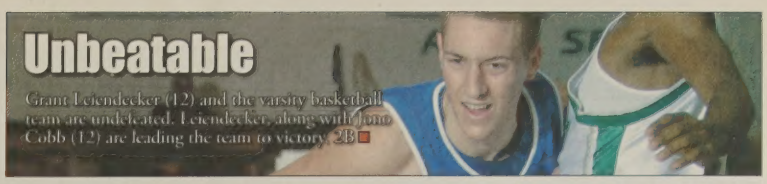
Sports



Unbeatable

Grant Leiendecker (12) and the varsity basketball team are undefeated. Leiendecker, along with Jono Cobb (12) are leading the team to victory. 2B

SWIMMING/DIVING

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Dynasty STILL AFLOAT

Long hours, dedication, endurance push swimmers to continued dominance

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

As the beginning of winter approaches, the boys and girls swim teams gets underway with their first victory of the season. From the end of last year's season to now, both teams have been practicing and preparing hard to accomplish individual and team goals for this season.

"Many people have been swimming club with teams like SWAC and TRAC," Kelly Johnson (12) said. "Other than that, a lot of people have been playing other sports during this time."

Captains for the girl's team are Johnson, Jessica Hen-

see SWIMMING, on page 3B

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Girls look out over the action at the Southside natatorium during their meet against the Snider Panthers.

Following four seniors, the dive team continues its push towards state

By Megan Miller
Writer

Diving into a new year of intensity and practice, this year's team is ready to meet all challenges. Coached by Jill Eakright, the team will have no problems overcoming this year's obstacles. This is Eakright's tenth year coaching diving for Homestead. Preparing and practicing is taking place more often than you might think.

"I know we have enough talent to do the best we possibly can," Eakright said.

For the guys, the two seniors are David Piercy and Cameron Hansbarger. These two are not only experienced and talented, they are also leaders. They will hopefully be what this team needs to win.

"This is my fourth year diving for Homestead, and I am going to try to make this year the best. I have a college in mind, which is in Ohio. I have a scholarship for that school.

see DIVING, on page 3B

PHOTO BY MARGARET DISTLER

Mariah Keefer (9) prepares for a dive.

Teagarden resigns after 23 years

Players from his career, fellow coaches reflect on his love for the game, what he taught them

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

Patrick Teagarden was listening to the radio almost 30 years ago, when he heard about a game and a superstar. The game was soccer; the superstar was Pelé. Teagarden looked into it. Three decades later, he has decided to stop coaching the game he fell in love with. He leaves Homestead girls soccer with a record of 304-90-30. He has coached high school teams for the last 26 years.

Teagarden remembers his first experiences for more than the sport itself.

"Back in college I met people I never would have otherwise," Teagarden said. "I've learned about other cultures, heard people speak in their native tongues. I've met people from Greece, Ethiopia…all over the world. It's been an eye-opening experience beyond the sport."

As a college recruiter, Roy Messer grew to appreciate the quality of play and sportsmanship from Homestead.

"The coaching profession will miss Pat Teagarden," Roy Messer, Head Mens soccer coach at Earlham College, said. "I've seen his teams and players over the years (maybe 20 years in all) and I've frequently seen him in action. Pat is a teacher: his teams try to play when they're not greatly talented or when they're very good. Pat is one of the important personalities in Fort Wayne that have put the city on Indiana's soccer map."

Teagarden began coaching at Bishop Luers as an assistant, and later took over the head boys coaching position. From Luers, Teagarden moved to Homestead where he began a 23-year coaching marathon, including 17 years as head boys coach, nine coaching the girls team, and numerous middle and club coaching positions. But as his 26th season arrived, Teagarden began considering retirement.

"Going into this season I was pretty sure it was time to make a decision," Teagarden said. "But I kept getting tugged back into the sport and I'd consider staying. What has kept me so long is the kind of camaraderie and spirit that the players have shown…it's definitely a draw for me."

Teagarden is remembered by hundreds of players. Veterans of Homestead and Luers have gone on to play for college teams, and some are now coaching.

"He taught me to enjoy the game, and play for more than just winning and losing," Michael Anhaeuser ('88) said. Anhaeuser played for Teagarden from 1984-1987 and went on to four years of college soccer at Indiana University. He is now Head Coach of the Charleston Battery (a profes-

see COACH, on page 3B

Girls basketball has early season losses, trying to rebound

Parker, Lady Spartans recoup from overtime loss to Dwenger, bounce back with Elmhurst win

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Stephanie Mitchell (11) looks to pass during a game against Elmhurst.

By Taylor Pyle
Writer

After coming off a decent 8-10 season last year, the Lady Spartans look forward to accomplishing a winning record this year. The team returns seven varsity players, including four starters, which should help lead the team to victory. After putting in extra off-season work, the ladies hope to pull together as a team and hopefully win the conference title.

> *"He knows how to get us motivated and he helps us keep our heads high after losses. Before each game he always gives us inspiring words which stay with us throughout the entire game."*
>
> Katelyn McMillin (11)
> Varsity Basketball Player

After the end of last season, the team only had a month of rest before they jumped into training for this year. The team started off with open gym three times a week to sharpen their abilities and teamwork skills. The girls also played in a summer "Parks and Recs" league to become a bigger force for the upcoming season. To become closer as friends and teammates, the team ran a camp for children. Actual conditioning started in September to get the girls up to game speed.

The team is run by veteran coach Rod Parker. As head coach of the Lady Spartans' program for many years, members of the team realize that Parker knows what it takes to win.

"Coach Parker really pushes us," said starting point guard Katelyn McMillin (11). "He knows how to get us motivated and he helps us keep our heads high after losses. Before each game he always gives us inspiring words which stay with us throughout the entire game."

Homestead looked very strong in the first half against Dwenger and into the fourth quarter, being up by 14 at one point. Dwenger made a big comeback, and the Lady Spartans found themselves down by two with two seconds left on the clock and Jessica Bruce (12) at the free throw line. Bruce made both shots to put the game into overtime. Unfortunately, Dwenger pulled away and ended Homestead's home opener in disappointment.

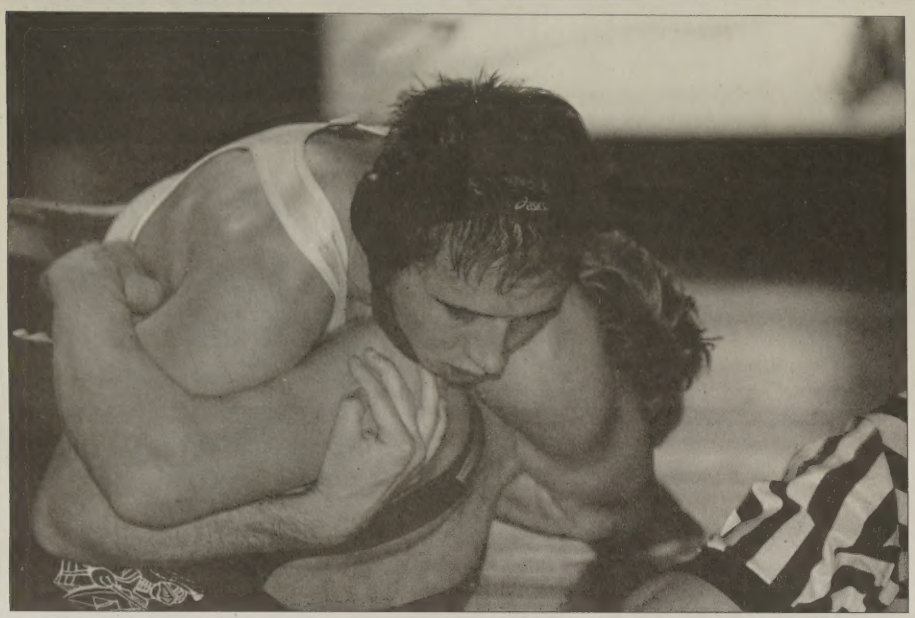
The Lady Spartans took out their anger on the Elmhurst Trojans, defeating them soundly at home. With a win under their belts, the Lady Spartans traveled to Huntington North to play the state-ranked Vikings. Everything seemed to go wrong for Homestead, as they fell to the Vikings by almost 50 points. They rebounded strongly against North Side, and came out with a win to even out their record at 2-2. They were down most of the game, but fought back hard and

see BASKETBALL, on page 3B

UPCOMING GAMES

12.17	Carroll
12.21	@ Angola
12.30	Col. City Shoot out
1.3	@ Snider
1.6	@ East Noble
1.14	Columbia City
1.20	@ Bellmont
1.26	@ Heritage
1.28	Dekalb
2.1	@ Northrop
2.3	Leo

*All games start at 7:45 p.m.



Derek Hackel (12) has his opponent from Dekalb in a headlock at the team's first meet for the conference season. Hackel ended up winning his match to help the Spartans come out with their first victory of 43 to 27. This important win boosted the team's confidence for future meets.

Wrestlers begin season with wins

Team overcomes loss of three key members; seniors Jefferies, Hackl lead team to eary season victories

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The boys' varsity wrestling team is off to a strong start and is looking at having one of the best seasons in Homestead history. With a lot of talent returning from last year's team, and several newcomers stepping up to the varsity level, the team is in position to have a very successful season.

The team's first meet was scheduled to be against Snider, one of the stronger teams in the area, but was moved to January due to a scheduling conflict. On Tuesday, November 29, the team opened their regular season and conference season with a match against the DeKalb Barons. The varsity team overcame the up and downs of the night, and won with a score of 43 to 27. Wesley Quake (11), Deryck Jeffries (12), and Justin Wight (10) opened up strong for the Spartans. However, the Barons fought back to make it a close match. Homestead won four straight matches to help put the Spartans ahead for good. Derek Hackel (12), Shane Ruckel (10), Kyle Carlson (11), and Andrew Fahlsing (10) led the way through the middle of the meet to motivate the team. William Bostain (11) and Pat Nagel (11) both won by pins and clinched the victory for the team. This was an important way to start the season because it boosted the team's confidence and got their conference season off to a winning start.

> *"Though injuries have slowed three wrestlers, the team has fought back."*

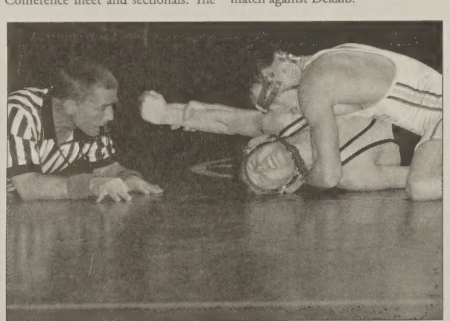
On December 6, the team had another important conference match against a heated rival in the Norwell Knights. The team had not beaten the Knights in the past two years, and would be a tough early season test. The guys came out strong winning three of the first four matches. The highlight of the night came when Trent Wilburn (10) came up to varsity and got his first career varsity win. The team ended up winning 40-25 over the Knights.

Another important match for the team came at the triple dual conference meet against Columbia City, Carroll, and New Haven on October 10. Heading into this meet, the team wanted to beat Carroll and New Haven. They wanted to do their best to compete against the state ranked Columbia City Eagles, and use it to prepare them for the Northeast Hoosier Conference meet and sectionals. The team started off well, easily beating the Chargers. Their next two matches would prove to be tougher. They lost to the Eagles, and lost a close, 28-30, match against the Bulldogs.

Another aspect the team has had to deal with is the effect of injuries. Early in the season three important wrestlers were bothered by injuries. Wight tore cartilage in his knee but was able to be back to start the season. Grant Laird (11) was also injured in the preseason. Finally, Phil Reiman (10) dislocated and tore cartilage in his elbow prior to their first meet. He hopes to be back in time to help the team do well in sectionals and regionals.

Though injuries have slowed three wrestlers, the team has fought back.

Below Left: A wrestler exercises a hold on his opponent.
Below: A ref calls a penalty late in a match against Dekalb.



Gymnastics team looks to young talent

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The gymnastics team has begun practicing for their upcoming season, which begins after winter break on January 3 against Warsaw. The team first began meeting at the end of November and is in the process of fine-tuning their skills as the season draws steadily closer.

The gymnastics team does not hold tryouts because not enough girls come out for the team to make cuts. So, everyone that comes out for the team can be a part of it. This year, there are ten girls that came out for gymnastics.

After they figure out what they will have in the way of a team, they begin planning and practicing through November and December in anticipation for the regular season.

The team meets regularly for a couple of hours above the gymnasium, next to the weight room. There, they work on the beam, the springboard, and the rings, fine-tuning their skills for upcoming meets.

After their first meet against Warsaw, the team will square off against Elmhurst on January 5, followed by a meet against East Noble on Tuesday, January 10.

Led by coaches Ericka Mcevoy and Kristi Whittenmeyer, the team has high hopes for this season after losing hightly-touted stars Vicki Toth (05) and Shelley Toth (05) last season. With the Toths at the helm, the team was very successful last year, excelling into the postseason and challenging some of the better teams in the state.

"We are looking good. We've got a lot of potential if we continue to work at it. Vicki and Shelley were really good and it's tough to lose such great talent," gymnastics member Dana Droes (11) said.

The way gymnastics meets are scored is a little unusual. Each gymnast has requirements in their routine, and they must meet them or they will lose points. Several judges oversee the meets and score each gymnast. The gymnasts are scored on their accuracy, the difficulty of the routine, and the requirements set in advance. The judges take points off as they feel needed, and deliver a final score out of ten once the gymnast has finished the routine. All the judges' total scores are then averaged, and the final score is given.

The team has a total of 15 meets this year. After that, they will participate in sectionals. If they advance, they will head to regionals and then finally state. The team will be tested this season. They have some very good teams on their schedules, beginning with the defending champs Bishop Dwenger.

"Bishop Dwenger is the best team around. They won the state competition last year and should be just as dangerous again this year," Droes said.

The team will continue putting the finishing touches on their routines throughout winter break and hopes to be ready for Warsaw once they come back.

And once the season begins to pick up steam, the team hopes to make it a perfect 10.

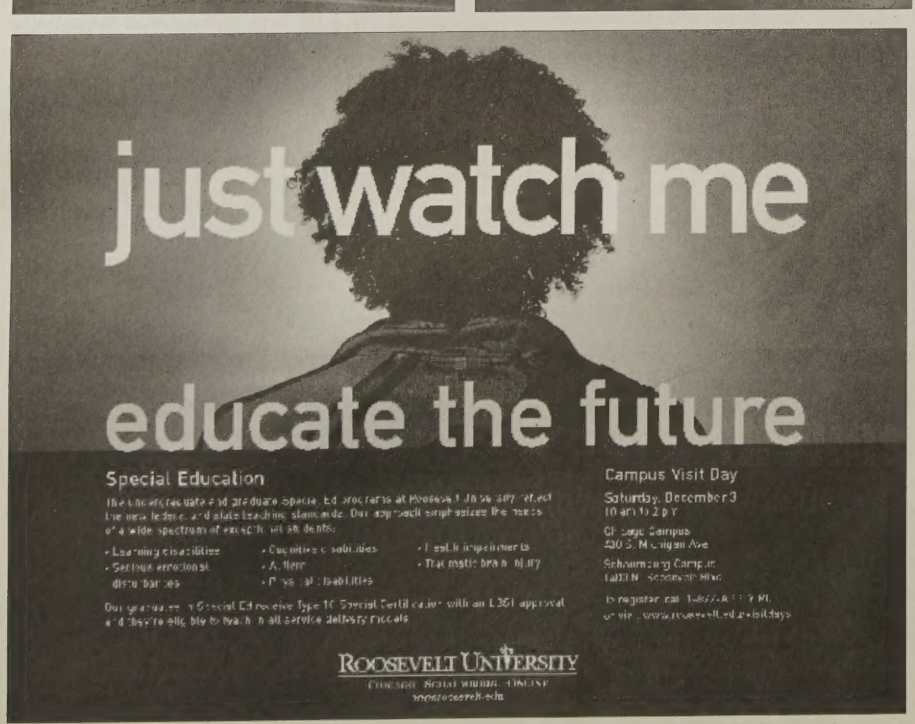


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PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

JV swim and dive teams follow in footsteps of Varsty

By Tim Clark
Writer

While the waters begin to freeze on the outside, the waters inside the SWAC Natatorium are just beginning to heat up with the swim and dive team this season. Homestead is known for its competitive swim and dive teams and this year looks to be no different.

During a swim and dive meet both male and female participants take part in the day's events. They do so at separate times, however, with a female event and then the same event for males afterwards. Homestead has always had good veteran leadership, but those older swimmers and divers had to grow from young swimmers and divers during their early years in middle school and high school. The dive team is a branch off of the swim team. Dive coach Jill Eakright started the dive program at Homestead eight years ago and has seen her fair share of good divers in the past. This year's team looks to be no different for her.

"I have been very blessed," Eakright said. "I have five freshmen that have come in and I'm very excited about them. All of them have potential."

While a young diver may be designated a junior varsity diver, that doesn't mean they will not participate in varsity events. Eakright said that she likes to balance out the team, giving some of her younger divers time in events to give them experience for later on. When it comes down to conference and sectionals, however, Eakright must choose three male and three female divers to compete. The top four divers overall in sectionals then move on to regionals where the top eight of 20 divers move on to state.

"Our team goal is to perform well at our sectional because we host sectionals at Homestead," Eakright said. "Our sectional divers then will go to Hamilton Southeastern for regionals. That's a very tough regional."

On the swimming side of the coin, swim coach Chad Englehart expects great things from his new swimmers. The swimmers have worked hard since the beginning of the year, and spend a lot of their time in the pool.

"We have 62 swimmers," Englehart said. "The swimmers train six days a week and a total of ten workouts a--week. Swimmers usually spend about 20 to 24 hours-a-week in training."

While Homestead has been know for its strong teams in the past, those strong teams have had to eventually rely on veteran leadership. Those veterans were once young freshmen themselves.

"We had 42 of these kids in swim club," Englehart said. "A lot of them I knew coming in. They impressed me through the summer. They tend to spend a lot of time dedicating themselves to the sport."

One day, these young student athletes hope to have their picture join the wall of fame along side of past star swim and dive members like Joseph Colley, Erin Johnson, Becky Wilson, and Shawn Cismowski.

"I'm very proud of them and they work hard in practice," Eakright said. "I'm very blessed and I have very good kids. I'm expecting a good turnout at the end of the year because of all of their hard work."

Englehart concurred, saying it's not a surprise that the incoming swimmers are performing as well as they are.

"We knew we had a very talented group of freshman coming in," Englehart said. "We were very excited about what they brought to the table as well as some veterans who simply have not made varsity letters in the past but who come and bring a great deal of leadership and a great deal of maturity to the program."

UPCOMING MEETS

December 17th @ Northridge

December 20th vs. Dekalb*

January 3rd vs. Columbia City*

January 9th @ Carroll

NHC Dive @ Carroll

*All home meets are held at the SWAC Natatorium inside Summit

Swimming, continued from 1B

nick (12), and Danielle Johnson (12). For the boys team, the captains are Brendan O'Hara (12), Patrick Laughlin (12), and Shawn Sullivan (12).

The boys practice Monday through Saturday, with practices twice-a-day on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The girls have morning and afternoon practices on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and only afternoon practices on Tuesday and Thursday.

"On Monday and Friday mornings, along with Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, we are broken up into groups according to whether not you are a sprinter, distance, or mid-distance swimmer," K. Johnson said. "The rest of the practices are done as a group and on Saturdays we do lactate sets, which are very challenging."

After the first meet against Snider, both the boys and girls are hoping for a great season. For the girls, they scored 111 to Snider's 75, and took first place in the 200 medley relay, 200 individual medley, 50 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 100 backstroke, and 400 freestyle relay. The boys received a score of 146, which beat Snider's 34. They took first place in the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley, 50 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 freestyle, 500 freestyle relay, 100 backstroke, and 400 freestyle relay.

"It was very exciting for the girls team because they are big competition for us," K. Johnson said. "We've wanted to beat them for so long and our hard work really paid off."

On Saturday, December 10, the boys and girls both placed second at the Homestead Invitational. The boys scored a 560, behind North Central, who received 612 points, and after Hamilton South Eastern, who placed third, with 378.5 points. The boys placed first in the 200 free relay, second in the medley relay, 200 free, 100 free, 500 free, and 400 free relay. The girls placed first in the 50 free, 100 free, 100 fly, 500 free, and placed second in the 200 Individual medley, 200 free relay, and 100 breast.

The next meets are Tuesday, December 13, against Bellmont and Saturday, December 17, against Northridge.

"We are preparing to accomplish our goals by working hard at practice and encouraging each other," K. Johnson said. "I think that being split into groups and training for our main events will help us a lot, too."

Diving, continued from 1B

If I keep practicing and getting better, anything can happen," Cameron (12) said.

David Piercy is also a big contributor to this team's success. He has big plans for his future in diving and will meet them greatly. He received a scholarship to Indiana University.

"IU is a great school and I am looking forward to going there. I just have one more year of diving at Homestead and I want to make it a good one," Piercy (12) said.

As for the girls, there are also two seniors. Kesha Bartholme and Samantha Nolting hope to make their last year great, as well. "As my last year diving for Homestead, I am just going to continue to work hard to do what I love best; finish well."

Sam Nolting (12) has the same idea in mind. "I've been diving for a very long time, and it's just so much fun. I plan on going to Purdue University on a scholarship."

As the seniors continue to devour the competition, the underclassmen are doing their best to keep up.

"Our seniors are just so great. They have really just stepped up and know what they have to do. They make great leaders and the other divers just look up to them so highly," Eakright said.

"Out seniors just really help us place well. They normally all get first or second," Katie Bushman (10) said.

Morning practice starting at 5:30 and ending at 6:45 is not always fun. The team practices in the mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday practices are from 3-5PM at the SACS Auditorium at Summit Middle School.

As the dive team continues to make a splash, they continue to do their best and have fun at the same time. Representing not only themselves, but also their school, these athletes surely standout. The seniors continue to plan for state and upcoming competitions, as well as the rest of the team.

"Every single person makes this team what it is. Without one person, we could not do what we need to do," Eakright said.

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Coach, continued from 1B

sional soccer team.)

"He was never over the top with his humor, but he was always able to make the players laugh and enjoy what we were doing," Anhaeuser said. "I'll remember his mustache; and his hug and comments after our huge overtime thriller versus Canterbury in the city finals."

Teagarden's resignation was approved by the school board on December 6.

"We'd been practicing six days-a-week, and I was kept really busy planning practices," Teagarden said. "I do hope to continue in soccer in some way…maybe an assistant coach somewhere, or club soccer. I saw this as a good transition year…and this was the time to make a move. Now that I've got more time, I hope to enjoy education more…and focus on preparation in the class room and after school."

Some of his more recent students also will miss Teagarden.

"What I liked was that his practices were always game-oriented, rather than running or workout," Nadia Ghaffarian (11) said. "I'll miss his corny jokes. He was a good coach, he made things fun, and we never dreaded going to practice or a game."

Kathryn Zachman (12) has been coached by Teagarden since seventh grade.

"My favorite memory of Teagarden is when we went to state two years ago, and he made a bet with us: if we made it he would shave his mustache off. And he looked pretty funny without it. I also liked that during the games he didn't really yell too much, but during half time and the practices he would make his points instead."

Teagarden memories are intertwined with the game. As he says, half his career is tied to soccer. But of all the close games, talented players, and incredible kicks, he remembers a very simple moment best of all.

"I enjoyed some of the practices most. I'll miss holding a practice that flowed so well…that had a smoothness that when we found out it was time to go, we were surprised the time had gone so fast. And in the end, some of us weren't quite sure if we wanted to go home."

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• Sciatica
• Stress
• TMJ

Basketball, continued from 1B

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Kacie Whitmore (12) dribbles past a Bishop Dwenger defender The Spartans lost that game in overtime.

earned the victory.

On Saturday, December 3, the girls played an afternoon game at Norwell, who happened to be a big Conference rival. In order to achieve the goal of Conference champions, Norwell was an obstacle the team had to climb.

McMillin was the leading scorer for the Lady Spartans with 13 points and Stephanie Mitchell (11) was close behind with 11 points. Despite the effort the team put forth, Homestead still fell to the Knights.

"Norwell has always had a good team," said McMillin. "They have always been a rival, and this year we needed to get past them to help reach our goal of being Conference champions."

The team's next game was against Concordia at home. The Lady Spartans were winning at half time against the Cadets, but the team was too strong for Homestead in the second half.

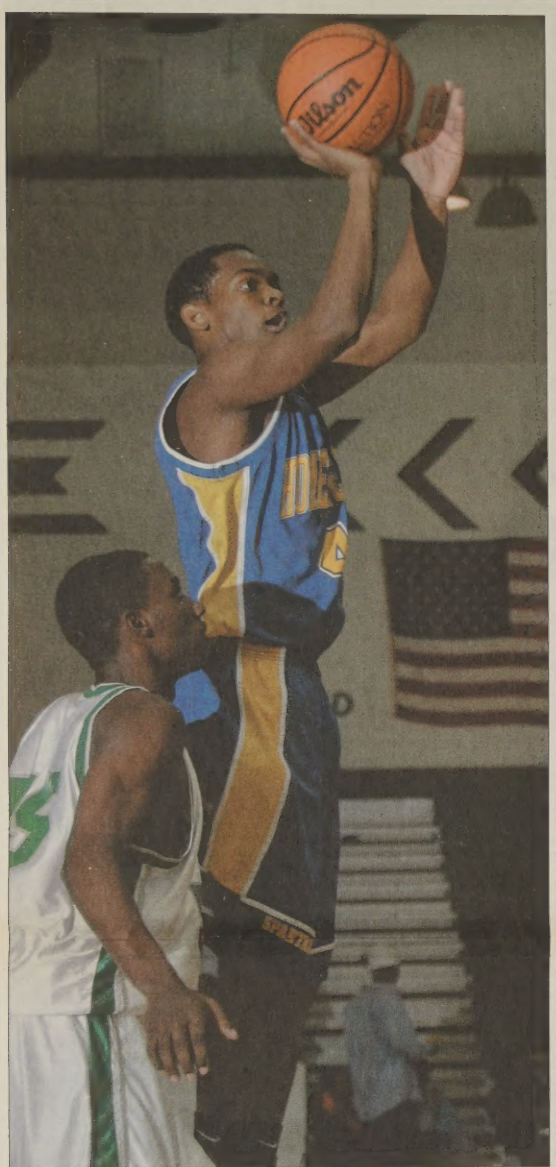
The loss put Homestead to a 2-4 record. With that loss at their heels, Homestead played with fire on December 9 at New Haven, even though school had been canceled that day.

The Lady Spartans dominated the Bulldogs and put another victory in the win column for a record of 3-4.

It is still early in the season for the Lady Spartans, so they have time to get things back on track.

"If we can put both aspects of the game [offense and defense] together, I think we can make the rest of our season very successful," said McMillin.

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL IS: UNDEFEATED



By Sam Van Horn
Writer

With four returning starters and more depth than in years before, the varsity basketball team looks to remain the same at the end of the year as they were in the beginning: undefeated.

The buzz surrounding the Spartans has been that they are the favorite to finish first in the NHC. This type of coverage can create pressure on teams and coaches to perform well, but Head Coach Chris Johnson said it will be no problem.

"Nobody can put more pressure on the me than myself," Johnson said. "My goal is to compete with every team and have a shot at the NHC."

The biggest strength for the Spartan's is the chemistry because they have been together. Returning starters include Grant Leiendecker (12), Jono Cobb (12), Brandon Parker (12), and Trevor Terrell (12). This was a major part of the team a year ago, when they finished with a record of 14-8. Gaining experience from last season should turn in to more wins this season.

"Returning players are important," Leiendecker said. "It makes a lot of difference in close games."

Another strength for the team this season which has been different in years past is the depth. Players such as Steve Clark (12), Kyle Leiendecker (11), and Conor Meeks (11) come off the bench to give the team a spark and to allow rest for the starters.

"We feel comfortable that the kids are starting to understand their roles," Johnson said. "They step in and do their jobs."

In the past two games Kyle Leiendecker has stepped up scoring 35 points in those games. He's averaging 20.8 minutes per game and even started against Manchester.

"(Kyle is) a kid who's taken advantage of getting his opportunity," Johnson said.

"We've got big guys, so I think we match up pretty well."

Grant Leiendecker
Varsity Basketball Player

However, the only concern for the team this year is their size. The four returning starters are all guards except for Cobb who usually plays the outside in their motion offense. Shane Ferrell (12) is the starting center this season and the team is confident he along with the other big men can get the job done down low.

"We've got big guys," Leiendecker said. "So I think we match up pretty well."

So far this season it seems that they have, hence their perfect 5-0 record. The key to their success has been shooting the ball well. They're averaging more than ten percent better field goal percentage than their opponents and are also outscoring them by a margin of 15.

The Spartans will have their first conference game at Carroll tomorrow night. Grant Leindecker and Jono Cobb will return after sitting the previous game due to suspension.

Left: Brandon Parker (12) goes to shoot a jumper during the Soutside game. Above: Shane Ferrell (12) gets a rebound and tries to put up a bucket against Southside.

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Grant Leiendecker

By Sam VanHorn
Writer

Leading the basketball team in scoring, establishing himself as one of the five best upperclassmen in the area, and with a scholarship to a Division one college all by his junior year raises the question: is Grant Leiendecker (12) the best basketball player to ever play at Homestead?

"Grant's an outstanding basketball player," Head Coach Chris Johnson said. "I've not seen a better outside shooter in my 15 years of coaching."

To become that good, one can't sit back and depend on his talent. It takes hard work and dedication everyday. And by playing all the time, he has shown why he is one of the best in the area.

"I work out everyday," Leiendecker said. "I get in the weight room and get a lot of shots in."

His coach doesn't disagree.

"He puts in a lot of time to make himself better," Johnson said.

With all the practice he's put in, it's inevitable to improve from last season. Last year he led the team in scoring with 18.1 points per game, and it's difficult to improve on that. However, this year, Leiendecker is off to a fast start and averaging 24.3 a game. The match-up against Wayne proved to be his best game at Homestead, by scoring 40 points to lead the team to victory.

"In the second half I knew I had to step up," Leiendecker said. "We were struggling and I just didn't force shots. Everything was going in for me."

Not only has his game on the court improved, but it has off the court as well. This season, Leiendecker has stepped-up as a leader and led his team to a 5-0 record.

"It's the way he conducts himself," Johnson said about how Leiendecker shows leadership. "He's the type that proves everything on the court."

Johnson said he will continue to get better with each and every game.

"He continues to work on his game," Johnson said. "His biggest strength is his work ethic."

However, as many strengths as one player has, they also have weaknesses to go along with them. With Leiendecker, his weakness happens to be something that he is trying to improve on.

"Grant just needs to be a little more vocal on the court," Johnson said. "He's a shy kid so he leads by example."

With a perfect record thus far in the season, Leiendecker has his team in good shape before they enter conference play. And if you throw out the question: Is he the best ever? He might be too shy to tell you, but by the end of the year, he'll be sure to show you the answer.

Grant Leiendecker (12) is the leading scorer on the Varsity basketball team. Leiendecker recently signed with Butler. Leindecker strives to improve his game, by usually being the last one to leave pratice each day.

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Life

Chicago

12 publication students from The Spartana and Retrospect staffs travel to Chicago for a journalism convention. 4C

Gifts that keep them living

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

The Fair Trade Organization store has loads of items from many cultures. There are hand-wooven baskets of every size and color.

By Destany Maddox
Writer

In the midst of spreading the holiday spirit, Fair Trade organizations are giving third-world artisans the chance to survive the holidays. In this community, one can be certain to enjoy the family, gifts, and decorations the approaching holiday season entails. Unfortunately, little mind is paid to the large percentage of the world that is spending their holiday season in hunger and poverty. Martha Miller, alongside the Fair Trade Network, has brought her mission to North Eastern Indiana in attempts to help them fight for a Happy Holiday.

Originally founded by humanitarian efforts and missionary projects, Fair Trade Organizations (FTOs) promote "economic justice" for low-income artisans around the world. These FTOs have pledged to provide equal opportunities for those involved, insure healthy and safe working conditions, and most importantly, pay a fair wage for hand-made goods.

"People like the idea of helping people, not with handouts but with an opportunity to work hard and decently," PEOPLink founder Daniel Salcedo said. Both producer and Fair Trade advocates mutually decide on a price that not only covers the cost of labor and materials, but also improves the crafts person's way of life.

The majority of the goods and handcrafts produced are sold in more developed countries, such as North America and Western Europe. The FTOs exist not only to provide useful and elaborate crafts, but also to promote the preservation of native cultures, and inter-country understanding.

"Fair Trade means that…others around the world can have a better life, have a better vision of themselves, [and] can stand on their own two feet," said Gisele Fleurant, board member of SERRV Int.

FTOs provide a way to earn an honest wage without the harmful work conditions of sweatshops or major factories. A Salvadoran worker who sewed shirts for a major American textile company gave this testimony to the National Labor Committee:

"There are five private police guards in the factory. You need their permission to drink water, and the drinking water is not purified… [When I missed work because my daughter was sick] the chief of production grabbed me by the shoulders, shook me violently, pushed me and hit me hard in the thigh with his knee. Then they fired me."

This sort of story seems to never be told about Fair Trade. Instead, Ten Thousand Villages, one of the many successful FTOs, report that its sales in North America add up to 14.2 million dollars annually and benefit 60,000 artisans located in 30 different countries. In India, glass makers can not only earn a fair wage through the Trade Alternative Reform Action (TARA), they can also help free local children from bondage and provide them with educational services. These FTOs aim to improve the standard of life around the globe, and educate more developed countries about the world around them.

If you are asking yourself where to buy these products, thanks to Martha Miller and Ten Thousand Villages, you can do your hand-made holiday shopping locally. Martha Miller, founder of One World Handcrafts, decided to open this North Manchester store after living in the Philippines for an extended period of time.

> *"I've seen how the world lives... this is one way to help them no matter how many miles away."*
>
> Martha Miller
> Founder of One World Handcrafts

"I've seen how the world lives... this is one way to help them no matter how many miles away," Miller said. After 13 years, One World Handcrafts is still in business and helping nations around the world. Decorated with handmade baskets from Bangladesh, ornate pottery from Vietnam and Peru, and a variety of native garments, Fair Trade stores such as One World Handcrafts are ideal places for holiday shopping.

One World Handcrafts is not the only Fair Trade participant near Fort Wayne. A Ten Thousand Villages store can be found on Stellhorn Road in Fort Wayne, and also in North Manchester, Shipshewana, Goshen, Lafayette, and Indianapolis. For More information on where you can find a Fair Trade participant, or volunteer for the network visit www.fairtraderesource.org.

FTO's and people like Martha Miller help make the season a little brighter. Stores such as Ten Thousand Villages promote holiday shopping without the guilt and provide gifts that keep on giving. As Martha Miller would say, "Instead of asking, 'What am I going to get?' Ask, 'what am I going to give?'"

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Above: Pictures are hung above the goods to indicate where they have been made. Goods include: baskets, toys, and decorations.

Holiday Traditions

Students discuss the holidays, traditions of the season, how they're celebrated

By Katie Corson
Writer

As the days get shorter and the weather grows colder, many students begin to prepare for the holidays.

Even though Christmas trees and Santa Claus seem to be the dominating celebration, not everyone is hanging stockings by the fireplace. The word 'holiday' has a different meaning for everyone.

This year, Ramadan was the first holiday of the season. During the Islamic holiday, Muslims fast from sun up to sun down for 30 days. The fast is then ended by a large celebration, which is called Eid.

"Fasting is part of the Five Pillars of the Islamic religion," Syma Raza (11) said. "We fast to realize how much we have, to make ourselves better people, and to think of others instead of just ourselves."

This year, the majority of the 30-day fast was observed during the month of November. The shorter days during this time of the year make fasting a little bit easier, but Ramadan is not always celebrated during the fall and winter.

"Every year Ramadan comes 15 days earlier, because it is determined by the lunar calendar," Reemah Alkaily (11) said. "It can end up in the middle of the summer some years, which is more difficult because the days are so much longer."

Even though the fasting of Ramadan presents a challenging tradition, Muslims are able to look forward to the food and fellowship that surrounds the extensive celebration of Eid. Multiple cultures celebrate Ramadan, which makes the celebration of Eid a very diverse holiday.

"Our prophet said that [on the morning of Eid] you should have something sweet, so we usually have a dessert when we wake up. Then we get dressed up in the nicest of our traditional clothes, and all the Muslims gather in a big hall. First we have prayers, and then finally we eat, a lot," Alkaily said with a laugh.

Like Ramadan, the Jewish celebration of Hanukah is dictated by the lunar calendar, which prevents the holiday from being celebrated on the same day every year. Instead of 30 days of fasting though, Hanukah is celebrated for eight nights.

"Hanukah is a religious celebration, but it is also a very historical holiday too," Avi Goltz (12) said. "Each night we say prayers as we light the candles on the Menorah. The candles are very important, and after they are lit we watch them burn for a while and think about the history of the holiday."

Although many Jewish families exchange gifts during Hanukah, it was not until a little over a hundred years ago that gift giving became a widely celebrated part of the holiday.

"When I was little, after my mom wrapped our presents she would write little phrases on them so she could remember what was inside each one," Goltz said. "My brother and I would read what was on the gifts and spend forever trying to figure out what was inside; we never could figure it out though."

The Menorah is a central aspect of the Hanukah celebration. It is placed in a prominent location in the home, often in front of a window, as in the Goltz home.

"The light from the candles on the Menorah isn't just for the people inside the house. We put the Menorah up to the window so that people outside can see it too. It's important to share the holiday, and not just keep it to yourself," Goltz said.

Unlike Ramadan and Hanukah, Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25 every year.

"Christmas is a big family celebration at my house," Caitlin McPherson (11) said. "My whole family gets together to celebrate. We're all very close and we love to joke around and tease each other so we always have a great time."

Even though Christmas is only one day, celebrations usually last for multiple days, giving families the opportunity to celebrate with numerous people in different ways.

"I always spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with just my immediate family," McPherson said. "We eat a big dinner with great food like steak, mashed potatoes, and ham. Then, after dinner, we all got on Christmas Eve Mass."

Similar to the Goltz family Menorah, the McPherson's have a special tradition for putting up their Christmas tree.

"We have a contest over who gets to pick our tree. We sing Christmas carols as we put the ornaments on the tree too; all the ornaments were handmade by my great grandma so they're really special," McPherson said. "I love Christmas because we don't just celebrate the holiday, we celebrate being together as a family too."

Semi-formal causes heat despite winter weather

Students reflect on the particulars of the night, comment on dress and dinner

By Taylor Underwood
Writer

After weeks of arrangements, students spent a whole day pampering and preparing for the perfect night. On December 3, Semi Formal 2005 was hosted at the Scottish Rite, and the title "Baby It's Cold Outside" was nothing less than an understatement.

Popular before-the-dance dinner locations were Biaggi's, Park Place, Casa's, Eddie Merlot's, and even Taco Bell.

"I went to Biaggi's with my date, and I had the most expensive thing on the menu, and she had a salad," John Morrison (11) said. "I stuck her with half the bill, call me a cheap date."

Dinner dates ranged all over Ft. Wayne, from downtown to Jefferson Pointe. Aside from selecting the perfect place to dine, the evening could not have been complete without the perfect attire.

"My dress was $100 at Von Maur," Rachel Schenk (11) said.

Meg Warner (11) got her dress and shoes at Marshall Field's in Chicago. Deanna Charcalla (9) got her dress for $70 at Stein Mart, and her shoes for $50 at Von Maur.

Other popular dress shops were Wendy's Bridal, where Katelyn McMillin (11) bought her dress for $160, and Deb where Rebecca Fowler's (9) dress was purchased for $55.

"My mom made my dress," Gigi Root (12) said. "There were 140 parts in the pattern for my dress. It took my mom eight hours to cut out all the pieces and about 24 hours to put it all together. I really liked how it turned out."

> *"The set up was nice, but certain people made it [the dance] not enjoyable. The DJ wasn't very good either."*
>
> Rachel Schenk (11)
> Student

The Scottish Rite was brightly lit and decorated for the dance, and many students enjoyed the formal atmosphere. But some concerns remained the same from the Coliseum. Some students felt it was too hot, a concern similar to that raised following former semi-formals.

"The set up was nice," Schenk said, "but certain people made it [the dance] not enjoyable. The DJ wasn't very good either."

"The place was really nice, and though the music wasn't very good, it got better at the end," Kelsey Kleber (11) said.

Many voiced concers about the heat in th Scottish Rite.

"It was too hot, which made [the dance] less fun," Alesha Ott (11) said.

"It was really hot," Carroll said, "But the water servers were really nice to me."

Another concern was the way the Scottish Rite handled the coat check.

"We all put our coats on the tables," Josh Rifkin (11) said. "Towards the end of the dance, the supervisors moved everyone's coats and shoes into the main room so your belongings were impossible to find. It took me practically 30 minutes to find my coat because they all looked so similar."

Many students were unimpressed with the ill-equipped DJ and the lights going off. Music selection was very limited, and the order it was played raised some problems.

"Aside from the decorations, I have better parties in my garage," Steven Armstrong (12) said.

PHOTO BY AMANDA OPERSHALL

Kurt Nettleton (12) and Naomi Killham (10) dance with each other to a fast song at semi.

Serving the Community

Students undertake Key Club projects to help build a better community

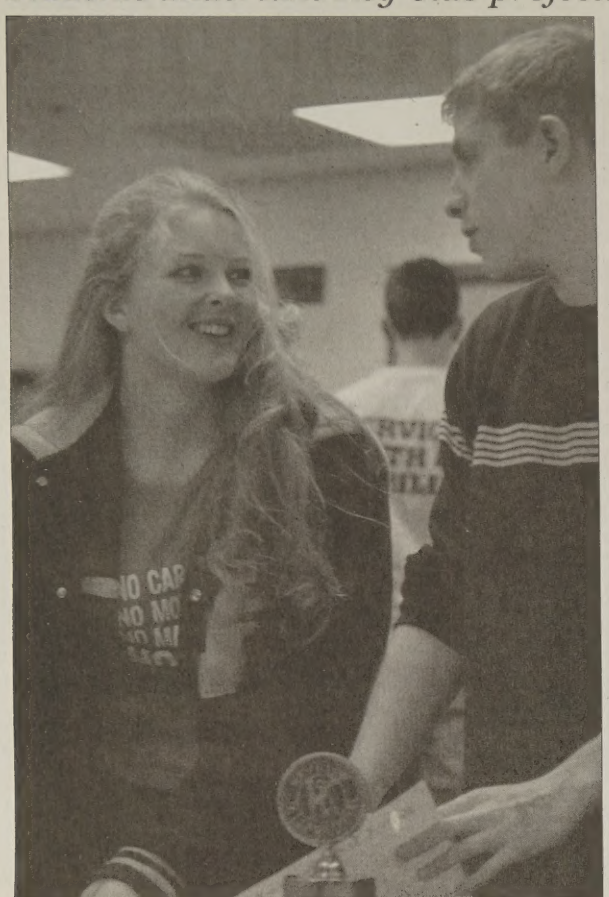


PHOTO BY: ZACH HETRICK

Board members Mandi Mast (11) and Brad Zehr (11) go over the new agenda for the meeting.

By Luke Chase
Writer

Homestead Key Club has changed lives of people both within and outside of our community. The club's various projects have helped people including the Lutheran Hospital here in Fort Wayne, the victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and the United States Soldiers in Iraq.

The Key Club is lead by a group of students and advised by history teacher Susan Summers. The president is Javed Sayed (12) and the vice-president is Brad Zehr (11). Paul Gilbert (12) is the club's secretary, Julia Springer (11) is bulletin editor and Kelly Geisleman (11) is treasurer. Also on the board are various representatives from each grade: Alex Desch (12) is the senior representative, Mandi Mast (11) is the junior, and Rachel Lill (10) is the sophomore representative.

Key Club's latest endeavor has been collecting CDs for soldiers in Iraq. Every teacher's first period class collected used CDs until Wednesday, November 23. Lynne Walker's AP Literature class was the class with the most CD's and was rewarded with donuts and juice.

"We'll be sending quite a few CD's over," Gilbert said.

One of the other projects that the club completed this year was assisting in a national movement known as Project Linus. The club devoted an entire meeting to making tie fleece blankets. A fun time was had by all and the blankets went to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of a gift as comforting as a handmade blanket.

One of the more recent endeavors, Key Club worked in conjunction with Student Government to help fund the building of a library in Jamaica through the sale of T-shirts during lunch.

Also during lunch earlier in the year, the Key Club helped make it easier for students to contribute to a Katrina relief fund, working in conjunction with the Student Government and the Red Cross. They collected what was, at the time, the most necessary resource to assisting those who had suffered: money.

The Relay for Life was held last year, where Key Club members raised funds for the survivors of, and those currently fighting cancer.

"Last year I did Relay for Life and I had a lot of fun so I hope to do it this year as well," Springer said.

The 175 student club has helped our community in many other ways. Some of them include planting trees at Indian Trails Park, volunteering after school during parent teacher conferences, bell ringing for the Salvation Army, Spooktacular, Trick-Or-Treat for Unicef and Jingle Bell Run.

The best way to learn about the goings-on of Key Club and what they do for our community is to join. They meet after school on Thursdays in the community room.

"We just encourage new members to come and join us," Springer said. If you are interested in joining, attend a meeting. Dues are 15 dollars, and anyone can join at any time.

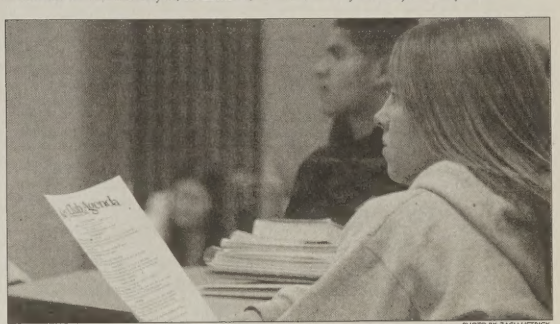


PHOTO BY: ZACH HETRICK

Students look at an agenda for the Key Club meeting to be able to know the upcoming projects.

Top 10 things to do over break

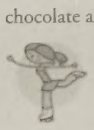
By Annie Baenan
Life editor

1. Sit in your basement under a heat lamp with a piña colada (virgin of course) and picture the ocean.

2. Day in the snow: have a snowball fight, build a snowman, make a snow angel, go sledding.

3. Relaxation day: sit in your pj's, watch movies, and drink hot chocolate all day.

4. Go ice skating at McMillen Ice Rink or downtown, at Head Waters Park.



5. Drive to Michigan and go skiing and/or snowboarding for the day.

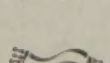
6. Throw a party: get some pop, order some pizza's, put in a good cd, and invite your best friends.

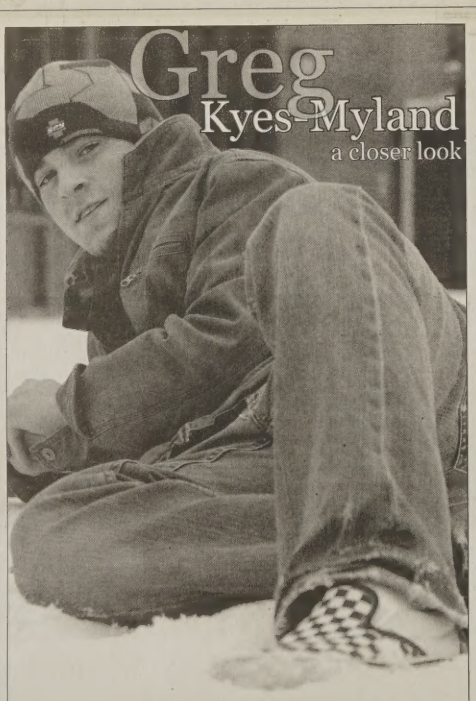
7. Shovel your mean neighbor's driveway and show some holiday spirtis.

8. Blow an entire day making eggnog and bake cookies with your grandma.

9. Go have fun tobogganing down a big hill at Pokagon.

10. Go to Michael's Crafts to pick up some knitting supplies and make a scarf.





By Austin Hetrick
Life Editor

Sophomore Greg Kyes-Myland shares a lot with comedian Rodney Dangerfield. Dangerfield loved acting, and he was a natural at it. Kyes-Myland loves it too, and he's never had a problem making people laugh. Part Steve Irwin, part Rodney Dangerfield, Greg is an adventurer in a world full of people walking the beaten path. From writing songs to battling diamondbacks, Greg is making the most of his high school years. He moved to Ft. Wayne two years ago from Lexington, Kentucky. Greg will be seen in the variety show doing stand-up and helping out with emcee duties. The Spartana asked Greg about his love of acting, comedy, outdoors, and feelings after a move.

Spartana: Why were you interested in stand-up for this year? Where do you get your material?

Kinda started to get "the itch." I'm definitely going to give it a shot this year. I get my material from things I notice and overhear…and I used to think, "Man, I really need to start writing this down!" I'd see something that was funny, and I'd think I could remember it…but of course I didn't, so I have to write it down.

Spartana: What about acting?

Acting is my number one! I love it. It's the one thing that I can actually feel I'm good at. I guess the comedy springs from that. And since comedians turn actors and vice versa, I love the concept [of being able to do both.]

Spartana: Some actors have serious preparation drills before going on stage. What about you?

I'm really more of an "inward-out actor." Before I go on, I try not to think of the scene or the play. I really try to think of [a situation] that is natural, and imagine the character there. Like: I'll imagine how Kokintz (his character from the fall show) would order a cheeseburger. The movements really just flow from those thoughts.

Spartana: What do you want to do with drama in the future?

I want to continue it out of high school. As of right now this is the one thing that I just…love…and no matter what I end up doing for a career, I'm not going to deny myself a shot at it. I'd consider filmmaking as well.

Spartana: What excites you most about acting?

Being on stage, no matter what you're doing, it's an excitement unlike anything else. I've played baseball and football and smacked home runs, but being on stage is a feeling that's different from anything else. It's just awesome.

Spartana: So from sports to drama must have been a relatively big step?

Everything with me had been baseball and football, and it's just kind of a transformation. Now I just have the feeling that acting is it, and I'm going to try and roll with it .

Spartana: What do you remember best about Lexington?

Lexington is such a cool town (really it's a big city), it's busy, but there's that "homey-type" feeling as well.

Spartana: Do you think Indiana's boring compared with Lexington?

I got here and was literally like: "This here's a field, boy!" You know, when I moved here everyone told me, "Ft.. Wayne, it's just so boring!" And I'm not disagreeing. But instead of worrying with where we are, I decided to make the most of it.

Spartana: Another of your hobbies is the outdoors?

A huge thing for me is rock-climbing and back-packing. Being outdoors is something that I enjoy as much as I love the thrill and attention when I'm on stage. I may love being loud and on stage, but there's something very peaceful when I'm outdoors. I love that silence as much as I do the laughter.

Spartana: You're in the scouts?

I've just stuck through it. Its been the one thing I've always had. The coolest thing I ever did was a trip to New Mexico. Our troop did 100 miles of back-packing. While we were there, we were out playing baseball and all of a sudden there was this rattling…sounded like cans or something. There was this awesome diamondback rattler. I eventually had to kill it, but it was still pretty cool.

Spartana: I understand you're also into music?

I still play guitar, although now I play mostly bass. Often times I'll write songs.

Spartana: What about?

Whatever's on my mind, I just pour it out. When I can't get out of the house it's just something I can do and write however I'm feeling. Writing the music about anything, it just kind of feels natural.

Food review tandem heads to Logan's Roadhouse

Texan atmosphere, good food, excellent value make for a satisfactory review

By Annie Baenen and Tyler Churchward
Life Editor and Associate Life Editor

Tyler: We decided to do our next restaurant review on Logan's Roadhouse, located next to O'Charley's at Jefferson Pointe. There is another Logan's out on Lima Road, across from Sam's Club. We walked in on a Monday night at six PM, and it was not busy at all.

Ann: The atmosphere in Logan's is very Texan. There are peanut shells all over the floor, sports on TV, and country music playing over the radio. The waiters and waitresses are very friendly, and immediately brought us out a tray of four butter-covered rolls. If you've never had those, you're missing out, they are absolutely amazing.

Our waitress also brought us out our drinks, and kept them refilled throughout the entire night.

Zach, trying to irritate the waitress, went through at least four Dr. Peppers within 10 minutes, but she kept bringing refills. We ordered our food after about 15 minutes of sitting.

I wasn't very hungry because I ate three rolls, so I ordered a bowl of the loaded baked potato soup, with a side of macaroni and cheese. Zach ordered a steak and a side of macaroni and cheese, and Tyler ordered the Logan's cheeseburger. We ordered an appetizer as well, chicken fingers, with barbecue sauce and honey mustard on the side. They were just as good, if not better, than any chicken finger I've ever had.

The appetizer took five-10 minutes to be prepared, and "wow!" those chicken fingers are good. Watch out KFC, you have some competition. Our food was brought to us in another 15-20 minutes, and everything was prepared perfectly. My cheeseburger came with a side of Logan's chips, which are basically thick potato chips. They're pretty good, but I prefer fries.

My loaded baked potato soup was really, really good; it has bacon, sour cream, green onions, and potatoes. It was absolutely delicious. However, I would not recommend the macaroni and cheese since it was loaded with way too much cheese and was really thick. Any restaurant that serves a lemon with your water is five-star in my book.

My burger was pretty good, it was a little on the dry side, but I guess that's how medium is at Logan's.

Aside from the normal cheeseburger, they also have some variations, like a burger with mushrooms, onions, and some others.

Zach: My steak was cooked very well, and our waitress brought out at least six more Dr. Peppers for me, I never had to wait long for a refill. I also got macaroni and cheese on the side, which was mediocre.

Logan's is very reasonably priced. Zach's steak was under $10, Tyler's burger was $6, and my soup and macaroni was $5 total. All together, including the tip and drinks, our bill was about $29, so Logan's is a great place to get a great meal at a fair price.

Logan's Roadhouse
1210 Illinois Road South
Fort Wayne, IN 46814
phone: 260-434-0459
fax: 260-434-0812
11am-10pm Sunday-through-Thursday
11am-11pm Friday and Saturday

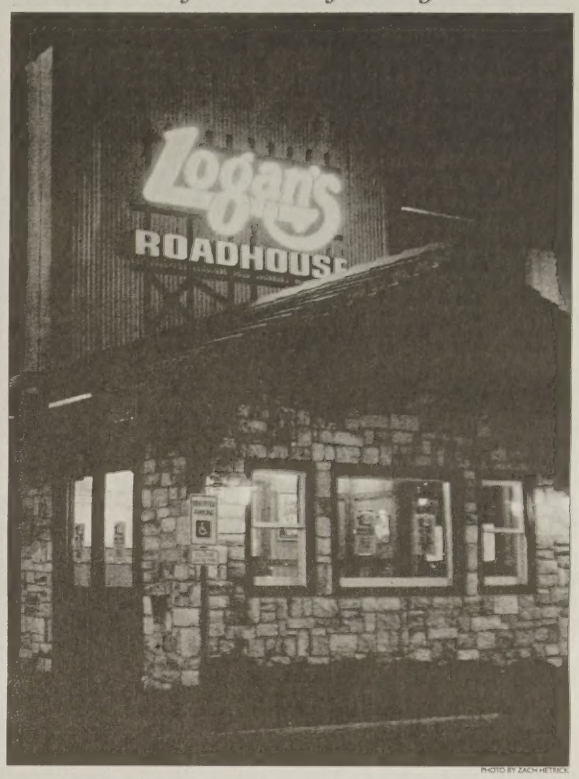
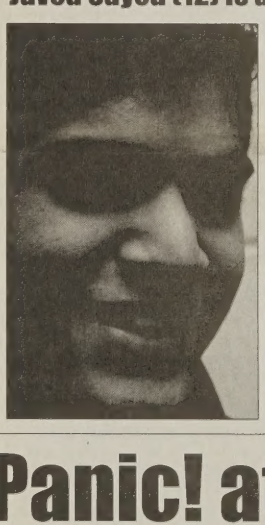


PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Logan's Roadhouse is located on Illinois Road, in the Jefferson Pointe outdoor shopping center.

Javed Sayed (12) is awarded Wells Scholarship



Javed Sayed (12) was recently offered the Wells Scholarship. The Scholarship is based solely on merit and provides full tuition, room and board, and a living stipend for up to four years at Indiana University in Bloomington. Around 18 to 22 incoming freshmen from around the nation receive this prestigious award every year. In order to win this scholarship students must first be nominated by their school.

Out of the roughly 500 students that are nominated, 50 to 60 are selected for interviews, of which half are offered the scholarship.

Students who receive this award show exceptional qualities of character, academics, and leadership and are significantly involved in extracurricular activities.

> *"The whole [scholarship] process was very nerve racking, but I think the end result was worth it."*
>
> Javed Sayed (12)
> Wells Scholarship recipient

"I was pretty excited when I found out I got it," Sayed said. "The whole process was very nerve-wracking, but I think the end result was worth it."

Panic! at the Disco

By Tyler Churchward
Associate Life Editor

After Fall Out Boy's recent success on the singles and album sales charts, I'm trying to get another equally, if not more, talented band into the spotlight. Panic! At the Disco, who hails from Sin City (Las Vegas, for those of you living under rocks). If you like Fall Out Boy, you will like Panic! At the Disco, without a doubt. Combine Fall-Out-Boy-esque vocals, replace FOB's constant guitar with a small amount of guitar, some techno, and even some orchestral instruments, and you have Panic! At the Disco. Their debut album, A Fever You Can't Sweat Out, is one of the best I've heard in a long, long time.

The album starts off with a 30-second introduction that is impossible to hear, and the only thing that you can hear is some random muttering. Their next song, "The Only Difference Between Martyrdom and Suicide is Press Coverage" has a nice rhythm with an acoustic guitar, but after about two minutes, the song breaks into a little techno interlude, which sounds awesome. Track number three: "London Beckoned Songs About Money Written By Machines," is a Fall Out Boy clone. Listen to this song if you like Fall Out Boy.

"Nails For Breakfast, Tacks for Snacks," is a percussion-heavy song with a nice introduction. This song is pretty good, and the voice effects sound nice with Brendon Urie's intelligent vocals, such as "And with the way you've been talking, every word puts you a step closer to hell/the hospice has a relaxing weekend getaway when you're a cut above all the rest." "Camisado" is one of my personal favorites on the album. The music is more like Fall Out Boy than P!ATD's unique sound, but the song is uplifting nonetheless. "Time to Dance", the sixth track on the album, is my favorite song. The background is a techno beat combined with some guitar and drumming (Ryan Ross and Spencer Smith, respectively), and Urie's lyrics are perfect yet again—one listen to this song and you'll find your feet tapping in rhythm.

"Lying is the Most Fun a Girl Can Have without Taking Her Clothes Off" has a very well-played bass riff (the bass player is Brent Wilson) and some well-written, but racy lyrics. After hearing the first seven songs, it's no wonder that this album got a Parental Advisory sticker slapped on it. "Intermission" is nothing more than two-and-a-half minutes of a repetitive techno noise, spare yourself and skip this song. "But It's Better When We Do" is, in my opinion, the second best song on the album. The song has piano in the background, which adds a neat touch to the song.

"I Write Sins Not Tragedies" is a very different song, in terms of rock music—it has a violin, followed by a hard guitar line. The song is perfect, guys, if you've ever been dumped. "I Constantly Thank God For Esteban" isn't too great of a song, but it's different. "There's a Good Reason These Tables Are Numbered Honey, You Just Haven't Though of It Yet" is yet another unique song. It sounds like a ragtime 20s jazz song, complete with trumpets and everything; another one of my favorites. "Build God, Then We'll Talk" has an accordion combined with guitar, but the song is decent at best.

Panic! At the Disco's debut album, A Fever You Can't Sweat Out, is an amazing album, from a band with some serious talent. This band is currently touring with Fall Out Boy, Motion City Sound track, and Boys Night out on the Nintendo Fusion Tour (Fall Out Boy is headlining); they came to Indianapolis' Murat Theater a few weeks ago, which would have been an incredible show. Look to catch this band on tour next time around, and look for them to be getting some airplay in the near future—this band is going places.

C.S. Lewis' classic book finally brought to life on the silver screen

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor In Chief

With bombs ravaging their beloved city, the four Pevensie children- Peter, Edmund, Susan, and Lucy- are forced to evacuate London as WWII rages on around them. They leave their mother and head to an old professor's vast estate far from the horrors of the war. Upon exiting their train, they are met by the venomous caretaker, Mrs. Macready, who informs them upon arriving at the estate they are not to run, make noise, touch any precious artifacts, and above else, not to disturb the professor. This proves quite difficult as the children are met by a series of rather gloom and rainy days. Trying to keep themselves out of trouble, they result to a game of Hide-and-Seek to pass the time. And that is where the adventure really begins.

Little Lucy believes she has found the perfect hiding spot when she climbs into the vast wardrobe. But she soon finds herself trudging through knee-deep snow and fraternizing with the local fawn, Mr. Tumnus, who informs her of the evil intentions of the White Witch, who has held a hundred year reign over the quiet country of Narnia, making it always winter but never Christmas.

Edmund soon makes his own trip to Narnia, where he meets the White Witch and promises to bring his siblings along with him on his next adventure. (At this point, we know she is up to no good, but we are not sure why she is so interested in this "son of Adam".)

Edmund lives up to his promise, and he and Lucy eventually get the other two into the wardrobe and into Narnia, where the children soon find out they are much more famous in Narnia than they ever could have imagined.

A likable beaver informs the children there is an ancient prophecy that four humans will save Narnia from the clutches of the White Witch and will become kings and queens of Narnia. The White Witch knows full well of the prophecy and sends scavengers out to kill the four that will supposedly challenge her hold over the land.

She's unwittingly helped by Edmund, who, through his own selfishness (and infatuation with Turkish Delights) quickly falls under the control of the Witch and nearly costs his siblings their lives on numerous occasions.

With the help of Narnia's mysterious Savior, the lion Aslan, the children set out to save Edmund from the White Witch's clutches, wage war on Narnia's evil dictator, and restore Narnia to its true rulers once and for all.

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe lives up to the recent media blitz with a glorious retelling of the beloved book by C.S. Lewis. Led by relatively unknown British actors, (the only name you may recognize is Liam Neeson, who provides the voice for Aslan) Narnia delivers a delightful holiday movie perfect for any age group.

The cinematography carries the movie. Breathtaking mountain views add a sense of dreaminess to Narnia, and the depiction of Narnian creatures are state-of-the-art and completely believable. Aslan is perfectly depicted as a vast, enormous, but completely unthreatening creature. The White Witch is just as creepy as C.S. Lewis suggests, and the loyal Beaver family is just as charming as in the novel.

Director Adam Adamson (Shrek) did an excellent job following the book exactly, leaving nothing out and adding only one scene. C.S. Lewis begins the book saying, "They were sent away from London during the war because of the air raids," and moves on. Adamson begins with a very effective scene in which the Nazis begin an air raid on London and we see the Pevensie's running to their bomb shelter. We next see them leaving London, just how C.S. Lewis begins his book.

Overall, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe is excellent. It is as simple as Lewis' books are but its underlying themes are just as present in the movie as they are in the novels. The acting is not fabulous, but none of the characters steal the spotlight or seem to be forcing their character at all. Edmund's character (played by Skandar Keynes) is especially impressive. We see Edmund as he undergoes a mental transformation from a snotty, insensitive brat to a loving and loyal brother. The excellent cinematography provides an extra zip. Without it, this movie would be less than average. But the intangibles are what make a film great. Kudos to director Adam Adamson and his crew for a job well done.

SHOWTIMES (AT RAVE)

FRIDAY (PM):
4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15

SATURDAY (PM):
12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15

SUNDAY (PM): 12:30, 1:30, 2:15, 2:45, 3:45, 4:45, 5:30, 6:15, 7:00, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15

awarded in Chicago

Publications students travel to Chicago for NSPA convention

photos by: zach hetrick and kara wall

By Annie Baenen
Life Editor

For the three final days leading up to our pub room trip, we had a countdown on the white board of how many periods we had to suffer through before finally getting to leave for Chicago. Every year, there is a journalism conference somewhere in the country.

Last year, we went to Atlanta for the convention, and this year, it was right next door: Chicago. There were 12 students and four chaperones leaving for the trip early on Thursday morning, 5:00 AM to be exact. We were hyped because we were going to take a bus to Waterloo, IN, and then take a train to downtown Chicago. Sounds like fun right? Let's just say it wasn't too amazing. We arrived in Waterloo right on time expecting a train to pull right on up for us to jump aboard. Wrong. It was still dark out, and around 20 degrees. 20 minutes rolled by and we were still very optimistic.

"Dude, you guys, the train is probably just a little late, we don't have to worry about it," Tyler Churchward (11) said. Two hours rolled by and there was no sight of a passenger train. Don't get me wrong, there were plenty of trains passing us about every ten minutes, but they were all freight trains going in the wrong direction. All 16 of us were huddled under a lean-to in 20-degree weather. There was a gas station that was a five minute walk away and some of the girls had to go to the bathroom. Just our luck, while they were going to the bathroom the train came and we missed it. So, we sat around for another two hours to catch the next one. I'm not even going to describe the things we did to keep ourselves busy.

We were acting like five-year-old kids without our Ritalin to keep us under control. We started a game of football, listened to music, opened our bags and put on more layers, tried to imagine warm weather, put pennies on the tracks before a train came to flatten them...we all were so anxious to get to Chicago. So the train finally pulled up four hours later as we stood there frozen clinging to each other huddled in a big ball. It was one of the worst experiences of my life and I have never been so miserable. The train ended up being fun (although it would have been even more fun if it were on time).

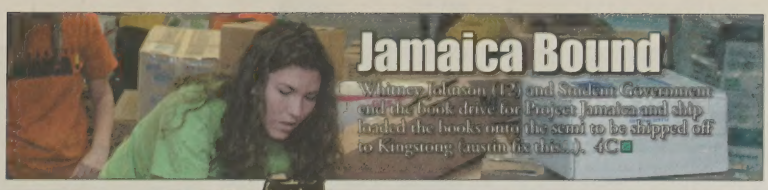
We finally got to Chicago and took a city bus to our hotel. We stayed at the Sheraton downtown. It was a really nice hotel. A few kids dropped out right before we left so we lucked out and each got our own huge room. We spent the rest of the day shopping and wandering around downtown. We went to Chipotle for a big group lunch, walked around Millennium Park, and went to typical touristy places to get a feel for Chicago.

Later that night, there was an opening ceremony basically describing the convention. That night we went to our rooms and decided which classes we wanted to go to the next day. There were tons of cool classes to choose from, and a bunch of us went to three the next morning, and then out to lunch at Bubba Gump's Shrimp Co. at Navy Pier afterwards. After lunch, we went and got our latest issue of the Spartana critiqued by a judge to learn what we need to work on to make our paper better. Afterwards we went to a few more classes then groups of us split up and went our separate ways for dinner.

Tyler Churchward (11) won his review-writing category. Larry Buchanan (11) won his division of newspaper layout. Kara Wall (11) got an honorable mention for her yearbook photography. We had the afternoon free so we went to a nice lunch and wandered around the city, mainly walking up and down Michigan Avenue, where most of the action was. Later that afternoon, we went to closing ceremonies at the Hyatt Regency, where all of the convention things took place. Our newspaper from last year won the prestigious pacemaker award, and our last issue from this year, won third in best in show, which is the best Homestead has ever placed. Also, Homestead's yearbook won an honorable mention and was placed in the Hall of Fame. On the train ride back to Waterloo, IN, with three big plaques in our hands, we couldn't help but be pleased with ourselves and what we had accomplished.

Clockwise from the top:
Top: The Wrigley tower in Chicago made for a quick shot.
Top Right: Annie Baenen (11) looks at the sculptures at Millennium Park.
Below Baenen: The glass orb in Millennium Park is one of the most well-known structures in the entire city. Next to it, the Chicago ice rink glistens in the afternoon sun.
Far Right: Larry Buchanan (11) poses for a shot after arriving at the hotel. The students stayed at the Sheraton.
Right: Dillon Kimmel (11) and Buchanan sitting in the Chicago Apple Store.
Middle: Maria Didier (12), Kimmel, and Buchanan walking to lunch. The group took several trips into Chicago to shop and eat at the various restaurants.
Top Middle: Larry Buchanan (11) and Dillon Kimmel (11) accept the award for their third-place-finish in the Best of Show competition for newspapers.
Above: Students receive instructions.

issue 7 volume 36
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana



Jamaica Bound

Whitney Johnson (12) and Student Government end the book drive for Project Jamaica and ship loaded the books onto the semi to be shipped off to Kingstong (austin fix this...). 4C

Walking the line

The legal line between police and administration obviously blurs

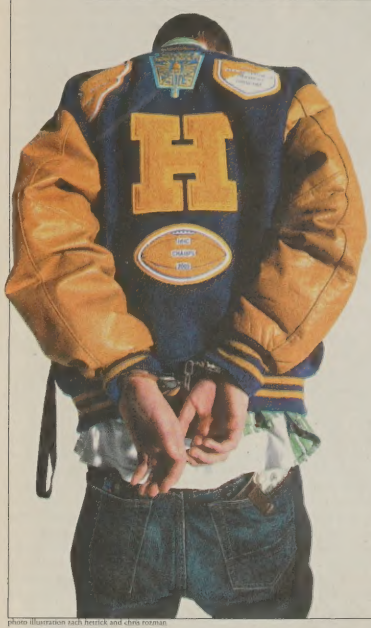


photo illustration zach hetrick and chris rozman

By Luke Chase
Writer

Detention, suspension, expulsion, a night at Wood or worse, different offenses merit different punishments. The line between whether an act constitutes discipline solely from the Homestead administration or if intervention by law enforcement officials is required can be as plain as black and white but at the same time includes a fair amount of grey area.

"Basically what we have is criminal law and school law," Student Resource Officer (SRO) AJ Pape said. Criminal law is any act that is against the law and school law is any act against school rules, Pape said.

Covered under school law are (for example) tardiness, disrupting class, and talking back to a teacher. These offenses are dealt with by school officials. The guidelines to punishment for these actions are outlined in the student handbook.

An example of this type of offense is a tardy. With a student's first tardy he or she receives a verbal warning, by the sixth, the student is expected to attend a Saturday school, as tardy one-through-six accumulate, the student also receives a detention by the fifth tardy and could receive a revocation of driving privileges if he or she is tardy to school again.

Another type of offense against school law is cheating. The punishment ranges from receiv-

see Line, on page 2A

"Anything that's in the Indiana code law book that says it's against the law I deal with and the school deals with anything that's outside of that list."

-AJ Pape
Resource Officer

AP Composistion to be a full year class

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Due to new requirements from the College Board, Advanced Placement (AP) Composition course, which focus on expository, persuasive, and argumentative writing, will become a full year course instead of the current semester course.

"Currently, we are trying to cover a year's curriculum in one semester, a circumstance that has required a fast pace and the necessity to make difficult decisions regarding what to cut," Connie Christophersen, who teaches AP Composition, said.

"Currently, we are trying to cover a year's curriculum in one semester, a circumstance that has required a fast pace."

Connie Christophersen
English Department Chair

Starting next year, in addition to making the class a full year course, English teacher Stephen Clough will also teach AP Composition. The course will focus have an added focus on the areas of argumentation and synthesis, in accordance with the newly revised AP exam. Additionally, the increased time will also allow for more development for students as well as the ability to read more books.

"A second semester of AP Comp will provide time for students to gain more competence in all areas of their writing," Christophersen said. "Currently, most of the reading material is of contem-

see AP Comp, on page 2A

Sterling Sentinel nominees named

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

12 Homestead students were nominated by their teachers for the Sterling Sentinel awards, presented by the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.

"I think it's just an honor to be [nominated]" Anna Menze (12), the school's nominee for Social Studies, said. "I was at first taken aback, I really hadn't considered myself a person who could recite historial dates or anything like that, but when [student government teacher April Moss] told me about the community involvement that this involved, I understood why I was chosen."

Sterling Sentinel nominees come from 15-20 other schools in Allen, Whitley and Dekalb counties (each school nominates up to one student in each category). The awards themselves will be given to one student in each category at a ceremony on April 19 in the Embassy theater. Students who win their category's award will receive a cash reward. Nominees are evaluated by the News-Sentinel based on honors and recognitions, their leadership, use of talents and knowledge to better themselves and their community, and the goals the students set.

see Sterling, on page 2A

BPA holds district competition

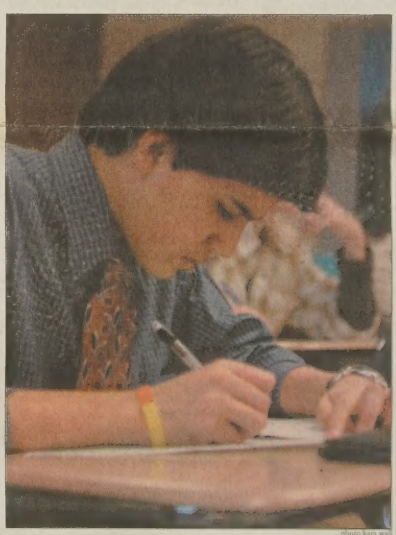


photo kara wan

Mike Salvador (11) takes a test at the BPA competition.

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Business Professionals of America held their District League Competition at Homestead on Saturday, January 14. 225 students from various schools competed in the event, with Homestead entering 20 students, all of which advanced to the state competition.

The competition is for members of Business Professionals of America (BPA). To qualify for BPA, the student has to have taken a business class at some point or be in one presently. According to BPA's website, indianapba.org, the purpose of BPA is to, among other things, "teach organizational skills, develop problem-solving and decision-making competencies, provide experiences for application of economic concepts, facilitate intelligent career choices, and promote school loyalty." BPA also offers scholarships to promising business students, the most prestigious of which being the Virtual Business Scholarship.

BPA is predominantly an after-school activity. However, Gayle Topp, Business teacher and BPA advisor, tries to include BPA standards in the classroom.

"BPA is a national organization, and many of the guidelines they have are based on national standards. Therefore, I try to gear my classes to these standards as much as possible," said Topp.

At the competition, students are split up into four different categories: Financial Services, Advanced Support, Information Technology, and Management Marketing, and Human Resources. Students can choose two categories to participate in.

Some of these categories are written tests, some are judged, and some are team events. The students are ranked after they finish their competition. The top five from the written tests advance to state, the top three from the judged events move on, and the top two teams from the team events move on to state.

"We did exceptionally well. All 20 of our students participating advanced to state. I was very pleased with the student's performances," said Topp.

Among the notable performances was Aaron Wilson, who won the Fundamental Accounting competition,

see BPA, on page 2A

'Arena' out, Centerpoint in

Centerpoint to replace arena scheduling this winter; administration works to ready the program for counselor, student use

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

Arena scheduling, a reliable, (but complicated) system used by counselors to schedule students' classes will be replaced starting this spring by Centerpoint, the software purchased by Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS) to manage student information. Centerpoint will be finalized as the scheduling method for the 2006-2007 school year by the second week of February, according to Vice Principal Steve Lake, an administrator involved with preparing the program.

Despite doubt and some complaints from students, parents, and teachers, the administrators involved and the technology staff at the Community. Media, Technology (CMT) building have been working with Centerpoint's designers to fix flaws and prepare the software for scheduling.

"At this point in time, we hope that the students will be able to go online and select their courses through Centerpoint," Lake said. Lake demonstrated the system he has been setting up on Centerpoint, which is quite complex. "When [students] select their courses, they'll have the option of choosing a certain course, and if more than one teacher teaches it, which teacher they

see Centerpoint, on page 2A

COMMON CENTERPOINT PROBLEMS

-Grades higher than 100% will round down to 100% (for example, 103% would round to 100%)
-Grades that have decimal points lower than .5 are rounded down rather than kept at that decimal (for example, 95.4% is rounded to 95%, rather than stay at 95.4%)
-If you have any of these problems, see your specific teacher for further information.

BRIEFS

Key Club had its first meeting of the new semester on Thursday, January 24. Members presented service ideas for local organizations including "Erin's House." New members are welcome to attend. Meetings usually run from 2:50 - 3:10.

Junior Classical League (JCL) is getting ready to go to its first Certamen meet of the year. Certamen is a Latin Quiz Bowl. The meet was held at Brownsburg High School on Saturday, January 21. In the past, the JCL from Homestead has placed very well.

The school board recently decided to change the school calendar for the 2006-2007 year. Finals will taken before break similar to most college schedules. Students will still receive the usual two weeks of break but the break will extend for roughly a week past the New Years (beginning much closer to Christmas).

Class Royale and Elite will be hosting their annual Cabaret Night fundraiser on February 3, 2006 at 5:30 PM. The event is the choirs' largest fundraiser, tickets will be on sale for ten dollars at the door. The evening features performances by both choirs, the Ball State University Singers and a live auction.

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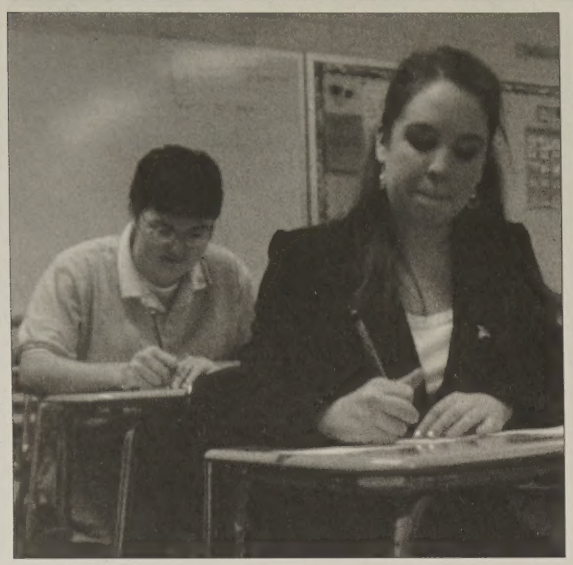

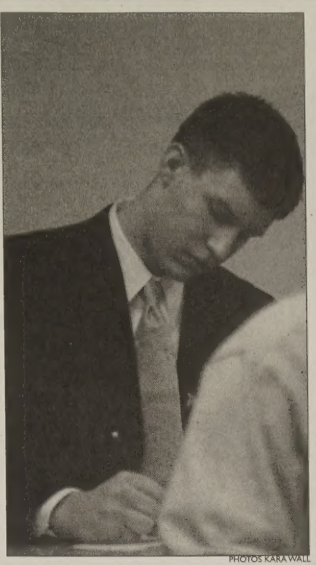

PHOTOS KARA WALL

BPA, continued from 1A

Jessica Bissel, who took third and Andrew Elbrecht, (12) who took fourth. John Kopecky (12) also won in the Advanced Accounting competition. Andrew Rittenhouse (11) took fourth in Payroll Accounting. The Advanced Support team of Neil Merchant (11), Mike Salvador (11), Krista Karidas (12), and Marita Rondo (10) too second place. Rondo also took first in the International Skills competition. In Entrepeneurship, Rittenhouse won the event, with Zach Wygant (12) taking second. Derek Nicholson (10) won in Presentation Management. The Economic Research Team advanced automatically to state, and those members included Kevin Nowak (11), Tyler Churchward (11), Blake Barnhardt (12), and Pat Mullen (12).

The state competition will be held at the Marriott hotel in Indianapolis March 4-7. Just like in the District competition, the top five in the written tests, the top three in judged events, and the top two teams advance to the national competition. This year, BPA's national conference will be held in Orlando, Florida from May 10-14.

Far Left: Two BPA students take a test at the competition. Left: Zach Wygant (12) studies intently in his business suit.

Sterling, continued from 1A

Nominees will attend an interview between the sixth through eighth of March.

"I'm pretty excited about it," Andy Wirtner (12), the nominee for music/voice said. "I've seen my friends over the years be nominated for this award, and I know that it's quite an honor."

The nominees must be seniors in an Allen, Dekalb or Whitley county school, and must have completed the state-required number of credits to graduate in 2006. No more than 14 students could be nominated by each high school, and no student was allowed to be nominated in more than one category.

"Students either had to express an interest [in the nomination] or a teacher had to approach you," Menze said. "In my case, a teacher asked if I was interested. Then I went to an additional person and they nominated me. My nomination was confirmed at a department meeting."

Seth Dager (12), a French student, is Homestead's nominee for foreign language.

> *"Seth was chosen for the Sterling Sentinel award because of his experience in France... and his involvement in the community."*
>
> Gregory Fryzel
> French Teacher

"Seth was chosen for the Sterling Sentinel award because of his experience in France, his constant willingness to speak French, and his involvement in the community," French teacher Gregory Fryzel said.

AP Comp, continued from 1A

porary essayists. Next year we will be able to include longer works of nonfiction."

As the time to select schedules for the 2006-2007 school year approaches, some students may be forced to reevaluate their options and deviate from their original four-year-plans. The class will also introduce American Psychological Association (APA) research guidelines to students who are only familiar with Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines.

"Each year I see students who would benefit from the opportunity to spend more time developing their writing skills," Christophersen said. "The degree of improvement students will see over a year should be substantial. Those who take this class should be highly prepared for college writing assignments, no matter how selective the school."

Christophersen feels that the changes will be positive. In her opinion, the changes further the goal of offering students challenging courses that allow for students to learn and develop as much as possible. One of the goals of the course is to familiarize students with writing for a real audience. Currently, students are able to accomplish this through writing competitions. The changes will allow more opportunities for gifted writers to pursue these contests.

"I expect that additional time will offer many opportunities for talented writers at Homestead," Christophersen said. "This class will challenge students to go beyond competency to excellence."

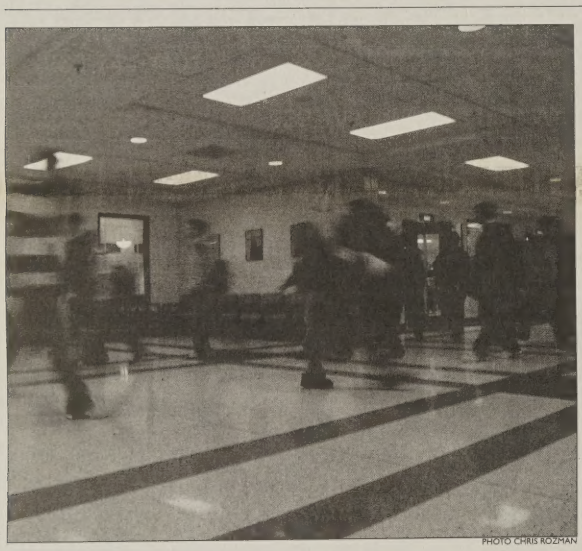

PHOTO CHRIS ROZMAN

Students running to and from the guidance office was not an uncommon event this week.

Line, continued from 1A

ing a zero on the assignment, parent contact, and administrative notification, to receiving all of the prior punishment and up to five days of in-school suspension (ISS).

Other offenses against school rules typically follow the graduated punishment as seen in the punishment for tardiness. The largest exception is seen in offences where the school has adopted "no tolerance" policies (drug, alcohol and tobacco usage being an example).

To those who commit some of these offenses alternatives to expulsion or suspension are offered by the administration. These alternatives are only offered to "qualified students who are found to be in violation of the school's zero tolerance drug/alcohol policies," as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook.

In all three cases (alcohol, drugs and tobacco) students may only use the alternative once in their high school career and it can be accompanied by ISS or out of school suspension (OSS).

"Anything that's in the Indiana code law book that says it's against the law I deal with and the school deals with anything that's outside of that list," Pape said. An example of an offense Pape would deal with would be battery, alcohol/drug use, weapon possession or theft.

Pape does not deal with punishments passed by administrators. He has the same jurisdiction as SRO that any police officer would be limited to.

School law and criminal law often work hand-in-hand. The example given by Pape was that of a battery. On one end, the administration would deal with it as a disruption of class. On the other end, officer Pape would deal with it as being a battery. Another example is with the possession or use of a firearm or weapon. The student could receive a possible ten days in OSS, a possible recommendation of expulsion, and a police report could be filed.

If a student is convicted of unlawful activity both on or off of school ground, the administration may pursue punishment of its own. According to the student handbook, a student involved in unlawful activity on or off school grounds is punishable by up to five days of OSS or up to ten days of OSS. This is the case if the unlawful activity could interfere with the purpose of school or an educational function. The activity is punishable if committed at anytime during school, on weekends, holidays or other school breaks, (even the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions) as long as it is considered to be in interference with the purpose of school or educational function.

If a student is truant and commits a crime on school property, the punishment for might be more severe depending on the crime, (an example is selling drugs during the school day.)

All rules and guidelines dealing with the punishment of any offense (including the attendance policy) can be found in the student handbook pages 23 through 43.

Centerpoint, continued from 1A

want to take. After we do some trial runs on the software, we'll know more about the details."

The administration emphasizes that the system will not be a great departure from Arena Scheduling. Students are unlikely to be thrown into a course they did not select, and are much more likely, (if any changes are needed) to receive a different teacher than that which they chose.

Students will also still be permitted to speak with a counselor on schedule changes after the school year begins, the administration said.

"Our job is to get [students] the courses that they need to make it into the right colleges, and I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that happens," Lake said.

Administrators have been preparing for scheduling for weeks: they've entered hundreds of courses, room numbers and teachers' names into the system. "It's really quite a monster," Lake said.

The administration has, of late, come under occasional fire from parents and students for problems arising from Centerpoint. On Tuesday, Superintendent Dr. Brian Smith, Lake, Principal Dianne Moake and representatives from the CMT met with the designers of the program (Pearson inc.) to discuss the program.

The program is a new one, and it has had some glitches to work out, Lake said. Centerpoint is updated regularly, the administration said, and errors that SACS students or parents report are being tested and corrected by Pearson.

"Our teachers and secretaries have been very patient, they're trying very hard to make things work," Lake said. "Is the software perfect? No. But I think in the long run I think it's worth some of the little headaches we have now. We're learning the software just like everybody else, but we're getting better. This software is not yet as user-friendly as other software has been for us, but we'll get there."

While most students were unaware that the Centerpoint would replace Arena Scheduling, opinion on how the program will do varies. Some students feel the program may handle scheduling easily.

"My concerns are that the classes that I want, and the needs that I have may not be met," Andrew Schroeder (11) said. "But, on the other hand, besides the error when [Centerpoint] says that I have a message but I can't read it, I haven't had a real problem that I couldn't [log] in or anything, so it may be fine."

"I think its a big hassle to wait in a huge line [for Arena Scheduling] only to find out that you're probably not going to get the classes you want anyway; especially if you're a freshman," Meg Warner (11) said. "I think the administration can figure it out. They've got a good handle on things."

But other students worry that using Centerpoint to schedule classes may become a hassle for administrators and students.

"It's always been easy to log on and see my grades," Samantha Dutiel (10) said. "But it does worry me that we'll be using it for scheduling, because internet stuff doesn't always work that well."

"I really think it won't go smoothly," Rachel Childers (11) said. "There are computer illiterate people that don't know jack about what they're doing and they'll screw up the schedules for the others. [It's a] good concept, but I think that it's the first year of using Centerpoint, they should hold off on [scheduling] until they figure everything out."

Teacher Susan Summers is aware of many of the small problems with the program, but feels it will eventually smooth out.

"It's hard for me to know if [Centerpoint] will work well for scheduling because [scheduling] really doesn't affect teachers," Summers said. "My concern lately was that if a student had gotten extra credit [Centerpoint] would refer back down to a lower grade. It was a small issue, but it could keep a student from getting an 'A+' rather than an 'A'. But with the administration searching for errors and updating the program, I think eventually the problems will be found and corrected."

Summers points out that highly-trained counselors could spend their time on more valuable things than scheduling, and Centerpoint could free them up for that.

"I could definitely say that from a teacher's point of view, anything that would free [counselors] up from scheduling would be a good thing."

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Sports

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Complete Domination

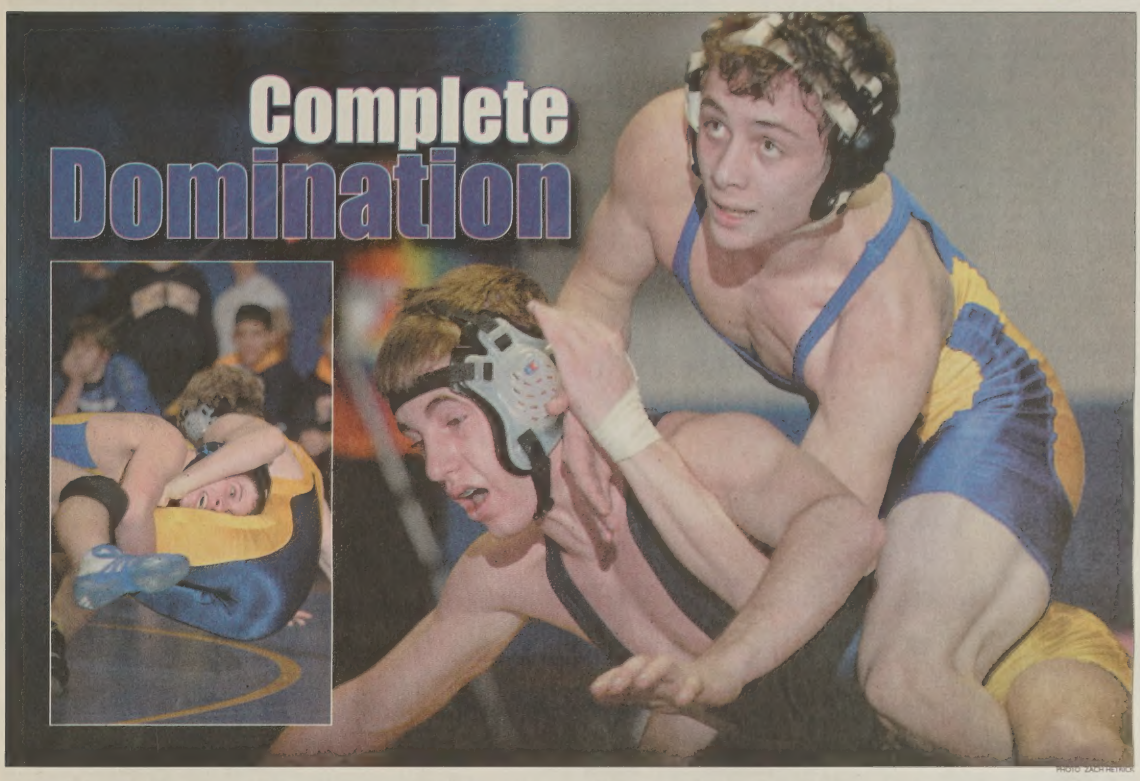

PHOTO ZACH REYNOLDS

Building on experience, wrestling team looks ahead to post-season matches

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

After opening the season with several tough matches, the varsity wrestling team looks to build on their experience and make it far into the post season. The Spartans were missing several members due to injuries early on, but are back to full strength with a lot of confidence as the season winds down.

The guys started by winning some important matches but also struggled against some of the state's best teams. On December 10, the team had an important NHC triple-dual meet against Carroll, Columbia City, and New Haven. The Spartans started the night off right by beating the Carroll Chargers in convincing fashion. However, the team went on to lose both other matches that night. This put the Spartans in a tough spot for the regular season conference championship, but they still hope to do well at the NHC tournament match. On December 12, the team went to the Northrop "C" Tournament.

Next, the Spartans faced the Wayne Generals on December 13. The guys continued to improve tremendously and easily pinned the Generals down for a victory.

On January 7, the guys returned from a short break and wrestled at the New Haven Invitational. The team got second place and were led by champions Justin Wight (10) and Derek Hackl (12). The team had a rare home match against East Noble, which was their second to last NHC match for the regular season. Kyle Carlson (11), Grant Laird (11) Shane Ruckel (10), Andrew Fahlsing (10), and Pat Nagel (11) all won for the night, but it was not enough to propel the team to victory. The Spartans lost 21-43. On January 11, the team had a match against rival Snider. The match was supposed to be the first of the season, but had to be changed do to a scheduling conflict. The team did just enough to come away with a 40-36 victory. Jeremy Gunderson (10), Wight, Hackle, Ruckel, Carlson, Fahlsing, Shane Nelson (11), and Nagel helped the team to an impressive victory. Nagel clinched the win for the Spartans with a second period pin over his Snider opponent.

The team traveled to Concordia on January 4 for an invitational. Homestead finished in second place, behind Snider.

Champions were Hackl and Nagel. Wight and Nelson also were runner-ups. At the JV invitational at Plymouth, the team also had a strong showing. Jobe Thompson (9) was the lone champion. Gunderson, Henry Shine (11), and Andy Alvarez (9) all finished in second.

While the regular season is winding down, the team feels very confident that they can make it far in the postseason. They have had some tough matches that will help them tremendously when the pressure really is on.

The NHC tournament meet is on January 21 at East Noble. A week later, sectionals start at New Haven.

MORE ON VARSITY SPORTS
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page 3B, Boys Varsity Basketball

PHOTO ZACH REYNOLDS

Top: Grant Laird (11) puts a Norwell wrestler into a hold. Laird went on to win the match.
Inset: Henry Shine (11) pyle drives his competition into the mat.
Above: About to power bomb, Shane Ruckel (10) picks up a Norwell wrestler into the mat.

1st in lyrical, 3rd in jazz not good enough for dance team

PHOTO KARA WALL

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

With a nearly perfect record last year, the varsity dance team is focusing and preparing hard to maintain their outstanding reputation. With 16 girls on the team, there are six returning seniors to lead the team into a hopeful and competitive season.

They have competed four times this season, and have been successful in all of them. The first competition was the Ameridance Regionals, which qualified the team for Nationals. The first IHSDTA (Indiana High School Dance Team Association) competition was at Pierce Middle School, where they competed against a few teams from Indiana and placed first in jazz and lyrical. The second competition was at Munster, where the team also placed first in jazz and lyrical.

The team also competes in the ensemble and solo categories. They rotate who competes in every competition. Some of the soloists include: Alex Kruse (12), Kelly Childs (12), Brittany Araki (12), Holly Thompson (11), Natalie Wray (10), Kelly Strothmann, (10) and Jenna Wise (10). Some of the small ensembles include duets of (Araki and Sarah Fagan (11)), (Wise and Kruse), and a trio of (Thompson, Wray, and Strothmann). In the large ensemble, the girls include Amanda Clay (11), Lindsay Baker (11), Thompson, Wray, and Strothmann.

Above: Striking a pose at the end of their dance routine, the varsity dance team is looking forward to regional competition.
Left: Holly Thompson (11) performs with Alex Kruse (12).

The upcoming competitions include the Lake Central Invitational on January 28 and the Homestead Invitational on February 18. Lake Central tends to be the girls' biggest rival of the season in the jazz category.

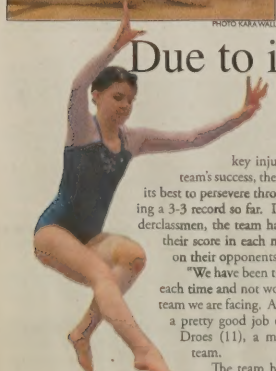
The Northrop Competition, which was held last weekend, was another success for the team. The girls placed first in jazz and lyrical. Varsity solos were as follows: Thompson first, Wise second, and Kruse third. The Varsity small ensembles were Kruse and Wise first, and Thompson, Wray, and Strothmann second.

"Our goal this season is to do even better than we did at state last year, which was first in lyrical and third in jazz," Kruse said. "We hope to do really well at Nationals in Orlando, Florida."

Besides just competitions held throughout the season, the dance team performs during the halftime shows for the home basketball games. The girls hope to achieve an undefeated season, and hope to do well in state and nationals.

"We're really good this year and hope to see some people cheering us on at competitions," Thompson said.

Due to injury, underclassmen step up for gymnastics



By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Though they have faced key injuries that have limited the team's success, the gymnastics team has done its best to persevere through the adversity, compiling a 3-3 record so far. Led predominantly by underclassmen, the team has been trying to improve their score in each meet, rather than focusing on their opponents.

"We have been trying to improve ourselves each time and not worrying so much about the team we are facing. And I feel like we have done a pretty good job of that so far," said Dana Droes (11), a member of the gymnastics team.

The team has been lead by freshmen and sophomores, with underclassmen making up six of the eight members of the team. Many of the reasons that the team has not been as strong as they were in previous years was because of the losses of seniors Shelley and Vicki Toth last season. The team has had to rebuild itself, but is determined to get back to the level they were in previous seasons.

Another reason the team has faced adversity was because of the loss of their only senior, Alicia Carter to a season-ending ACL injury. The team has had to work harder than ever to make up for the loss and fill Carter's spot on the team.

In practice, the team has not changed their practice routine much this year but has been practicing more intensely in order to improve themselves at every meet.

"We are doing our best in practice to remain focused and improve ourselves each day," Droes said.

The team started the season with dual meets against Warsaw on January 3 and Elmhurst on January 5. Then, on January

see Gymnastics, on page 2B

GYMNASTICS TERMS

DISMOUNT: the term used as the last skill in the routine

ALL AROUND: refers to a gymnast that competes in all of their gender-specific events

HEEL DRIVE: kicking one's heals hard to carry the gymnasts legs in the direction of the gymnasts back

EAGLE GRIP: a gymnast's hands are turned 180 degrees outward to form an over grip

Fighting with the record book

By Taylor Pyle
Writer

Now with a 6-9 record, the lady Spartans look to steadily improve and add a couple more victories to the win column.

The ladies have lost many hard-fought games that could have gone either way, and plan on gaining the killer instinct to finish their competitors off.

A big part of the lady Spartans' success this year has to do with the strong leadership of seniors and head coach Rod Parker.

"We don't really have one specific leader, all of the seniors lead the team," Lauren Cleaver (11) said.

"Coach Parker has learned a lot about us from last year, and I think that has helped him coach us this year. He is a good coach even with the ups and downs the team goes through."

After starting off the season with a losing record of 3-4, Homestead wanted to even it out with a win over a very strong South Side team.

The game was away, which is a disadvantage in any sport. The lady Spartans were hanging tough with the Archers until a school fire alarm got pulled, postponing the game for quite some time.

When the game resumed, all the passion inside the team was gone, leading to a loss.

Even though that loss was devastating to the team's moral, they had to keep their heads high and play a dominant Carroll team on December 17.

The Chargers are the lady Spartans' top rival and they hadn't beaten them in five years. To put even more pressure on Homestead, Carroll had defeated South Side earlier in the season and were one of the top teams in the NHC. After an electrifying game, the Lady Spartans pulled out a shocking upset.

"Our goal was to be Conference champions and to get as far as we could in sectionals. We still have growing to do, but it's up to us to make things happen."

Lauren Cleaver (11)
Varsity Basketball Player

"The most exciting game so far this season has to be the Carroll game," Cleaver said. "We just went crazy after we won that game."

With that victory on their shoulders, the ladies traveled to and destroyed the very weak Angola team. This was just the momentum the girls needed, going into the Columbia City tournament. Homestead entered the tournament with their heads high, but lost to two good teams in Garrett and South Bend Adams. These two losses brought the ladies to a 5-7 record.

Homestead's next game was against cross-town rival Snider. An outstanding performance from Stephanie Mitchell (11) led the lady Spartans to their sixth win of the season.

Mitchell led Homestead with 19 points in the contest, followed closely behind by Katelyn McMillin, who had 17.

Closing in on seven wins to make their record even, the lady Spartans played against two NHC teams in East Noble and Columbia City.

Unfortunately, Homestead lost both contests in very close fashion, bringing their record down to a disappointing 6-9.

If they don't get things back on track towards the end of the season, things could turn devastating for the lady Spartans.

"Our goal was to be conference champions and to get as far as we could in sectionals," Cleaver said. "We still have growing to do, but it's up to us to make things happen."

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Kacie Whitmore drives in the lane for an easy bucket.

Gymnastics, continued from 1B

10 and 12, the team had meets against East Noble and Snider. Their first invitational was against Concordia on January 21. They had a meet against Northrop on Monday, and they managed to win in a very close match. They then had a meet yesterday, January 26.

"Because we all participate in it and we are all experienced in the floor event, that is our strongest event probably. Our scores are best in the floor and continue to improve as the year goes on."

Dana Droes (11)
Varsity Gymnastics

"Against Northrop Monday, we did really well. We were tied half way through but then came back to win it at the end of the meet. It was a really encouraging to win a close meet like that," said Droes.

Coming up, the team has an invitational against Chesterton, which should be the toughest test for the young team so far. After that, the team will have a meet against Wayne on January 30 and another against Huntington North on February 2. Postseason play does not begin until March, with Sectionals taking place on March 4, Regionals taking place on March 10, and State occurring on March 18 at Perry Meridian. Last year, seniors Vicki and Shelley Toth made it to state.

Individually, members of the team can participate in one of four events: floor, balance beam, vault, and the uneven bars. Every member participates in the floor event and because of this, most consider the floor the team's strongest event. Not everyone participates in the other three events, but rather participate in the ones they excel at.

"Because we all participate in it and we are all experienced in the floor event, that is our strongest event probably. Our scores are best in the floor and continue to improve as the year goes on," said Droes.

For the rest of the year, the team will continue to look to improve their scores and gain experience as they near the halfway point of the season. With the postseason still more than a month away, the team also has time to improve itself. It has several more meets to go and will look to get better and better as the year comes to a close.

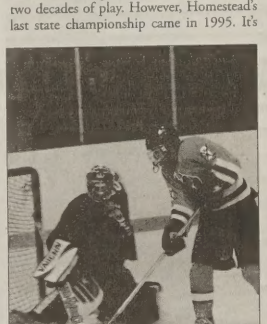
"On Chesterton this Saturday our coach wants us to get a score of better than 90. If we can accomplish that, we will continue to look to improve our score as the year go on. The victories will come, but now we have to continue improving our score," said Droes.

Glory on ICE

Junior Chase Richmond skates past a Snider defender.

By Tim Clark and Austin Hetrick
Writer and Copy Editor

Unknown to most who walk the halls at Homestead, the Homestead hockey club in the most successful sports team in Homestead's history in terms of state championships. The Spartan hockey club has won three state championships in a little less than two decades of play. However, Homestead's last state championship came in 1995. It's been eleven long years since Homestead last tasted that glory and its team members this year, hope that it is finally their year. The team has set itself up to make a valiant run at state compiling a 9-5-1 record in the league. The Spartans are in third place in the standings; two points behind Carroll for second.


photos kara wall

Tim Clark (12) tries to defend the goal.

"I think we've been working really hard, lately, we've done a real good job of coming together as a team," player Mario Baldassari (11) said. "I think we'll be the [team] to topple Snider."

State rankings in hockey, however, are unlike any other sport in Indiana. The Indiana State High School Hockey Association places teams into a category from 1A to 5A, with 5A being the elite teams in Indiana, depending on their level of competitiveness. Homestead will likely be placed in 2A or 3A at the end of the season.

The Homestead Spartan hockey club has been successful in the last few years, finishing above the .500 mark in four of five season while winning two regular season championships. Last year the team was led by several seniors, but they've rebounded well this year.

"We lost our best player, Cort Bulloch (05), but we've had plenty of guys step up… Phil Gibson, Joey Emmons and Nate Wine have really been there for us," Baldassari said. "Coach has said that although we're not necessarily the most talented team, we make up for that with the effort we put out."

Ever since suffering a 5-4 loss to the league-leading Snider Panthers back on December 21st, the Spartans have won three straight games, outscoring the opposition 18-4. On the horizon, however, Homestead will face second-place Carrol, and league leading Snider (14-0-1). The Spartans have had pretty good success against Carroll winning two games while losing one. On the other hand, the Spartans have had limited success against Snider, going 0-3. In those three loses, however, the Spartans have only lost by a single goal in each game.

Leading the team in scoring is senior Phil Gibson. The fourth year player has accumulated nine goals and twenty-nine points in fifteen games.

Rounding out the rest of the top fifteen from Homestead are Nathan Wine in 9th with nine goals and twenty-five points (also has four game-winning goals), Joey Emmons in 12th with fourteen goals and Chase Richmond in fifteenth with ten goals and seventeen points. Sophomore goaltender Peter Saya is also highly ranked, ranking second in the league for goaltenders with a 6-4 record, a .898 save percentage (what the rankings are based on), a 2.73 goals against average, and one shutout. Homestead will play Snider on February 2, at 8:30 PM.

"[To beat Snider] would place us in firm second place, it would give us a lot of momentum heading into the city tournament," Baldassari said. "It would be a big moral victory for us, especially breaking their unbeaten streak."

Bowling Terms

Blowout: Downing all the pins but one.
Field goal: Ball rolled between two pins of a wide split.
Floater: A ball that goes where the lane lets it; the ball is released badly with no particular lift or turn.
Gutter ball: A ball that goes into the gutter.
Spare: All pins down with two balls.
Split: A spare leave in which the headpin is down and the remaining combination of pins have an intermediate pin down immediately ahead of or between them.

Sectionals are right up their alley

Bowling team pushes towards approaching postseason

By Luke Chase
Writer

The Homestead Bowling team is doing well as their regular season winds down. The girls have a 5-1 record and the boys have a 3-3 record with reserve holding a 4-2 record.

Scoring for a bowling match is organized by player. That is, the player on Homestead's team bowling the number one slot has to beat the overall score for the bowler on the opposing team in the number one slot. This works respectively for all five bowlers on both teams.

After the first game is over, the winning team is awarded five additional points. The second game of the match is scored the same way. Twenty points are awarded per match thus allowing for a tie, in which case determining the winner reverts down to total number of pins for each team for the entire match.

The team practices on Tuesdays from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and typically plays games on Thursdays. Coach Crandall coaches both the boys and girls team.

Crandall identified North Side as one of the toughest opponents for the boys to play.

"They've been a thorn in my side for a couple of years," Crandall said, after a loss to North Side putting the boys at a 3-3 record.

The team that has proved difficult for the girls team is Snider, Crandall said. The girls played Snider on Thursday January 12.

Before the team goes to sectionals there is a positioning round where the first place team plays the second place team, the third plays the fourth, and so on.

After the positioning round everyone goes to sectionals. The top four teams at sectionals advance to regional competition as well as the top 15 individuals.

Last year the team didn't advance out of sectionals. However, two girls and one boy did advance on to regional as individual competitors.

This year, Crandall hopes to turn it around and would like to see the team advance out of sectionals and send at least two boys and two girls past regional and one member to state.

"We're doing really good, we've only lost once," Girls varsity bowler Amanda Furge (12) said.

Boys reserve bowler Ryan Sarrazin (9) has high hopes and thinks the team will get "pretty far" when it comes to championship play.

Boys varsity basketball out-shoots competition

The boys varsity basketball team experiences several losses, but maintains a perfect 6-0 mark at home

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

By Sam Van Horn
Writer

After starting the season with a perfect 5-0 record, the varsity basketball team has dropped three out of their last seven games, including two in conference play.

"The Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) is tough this year," Kyle Leiendecker said (11). "A lot of our conference games will be competitive this season."

The first conference match up of the year was played at Carroll on December 16. It proved to be the closest game all year, as the Spartans lost 53-51. Jono Cobb (12) led the team with 20 points and added nine rebounds for a near double-double.

"We didn't play our best game," Leiendecker said. "We have to win close games like that."

The following night they were on the road again to play Huntington North for a non-conference game. The Spartans would drop their second straight loss, this time by just seven points, as they were edged out 66-59. Grant Leiendecker (12) led the team with 31 points and added eight rebounds as well.

The next four games were all non-conference and half were scheduled to be played at home. The first two, however, were both on the road against Heritage and Leo. The Spartans were able to win both games by a combined 41 point margin. Their next opponent was Concordia and was handled with ease, winning by 18 points. The fourth close game of the season came on January 7 against East Noble. The Spartans were able to come away with victory, making their record 2-2 in games that are won by ten or less. G. Leiendecker was the leading scorer with 19 points and Leiendecker added six rebounds in the win.

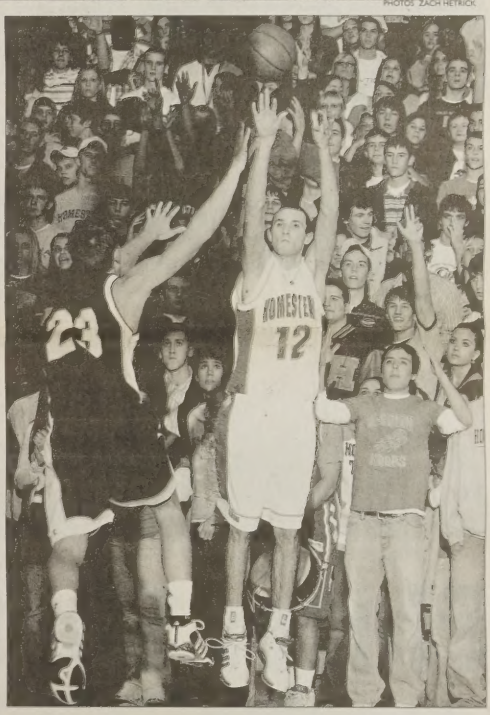
On January 13 the Spartan's were on the road to face Columbia City in their third conference game of the year. Shooting more than 60 percent the first two quarters, the Spartans were red hot but were only winning the game by six points. Once the shooting streak stopped, the points stopped coming as well; they were out-scored by 13 points in the second half and lost the game 62-55. Columbia City shot over 65 percent in the third quarter and then over 80 percent in the fourth. Grant Leiendecker led the team with 32 minutes and had 23 points including five three-pointers. Leiendecker added ten points and was perfect from the free throw line. The Spartans committed 24 fouls compared to the Eagle's ten, and they capitalized converting 21-27 from the foul line.

"Free throws can make a big difference in any game," Leiendecker said. "They had 20 more attempts from the line, which is tough to overcome."

With a record of 1-2 in conference games this season, the Spartans were at home to play the Bellmont Braves this past Saturday. They jumped out to with a 22-7 first quarter lead and never looked back; as the home team went on to win 72-48. G. Leiendecker led all scorers with 18 points, just three below his season average of 21.

The Spartans are 10-3 overall including 6-0 in games that are played at home. However, the Spartans only have two remaining match ups at home and are only one game above .500 on the road. They will face two straight road games starting tonight against the DeKalb Barons at 7:45.

"The Spartan's are still out-shooting their opponents in every statistical category. In result, they have outscored their opposition by more than 120 points. If they continue their great shooting on the road, the varsity basketball team should look to end the year on top," said Molly Rodenbeck, an avid high school basketball fan



Blake Barnhardt (12) reacts to Jono Cobb's (12) eventual four point play due to a foul.

SCHEDULE

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

1.27	Dekalb	Away
1.31	Dwenger	Away
2.4	New Haven	Home
2.9	Norwell	Home
2.15	Elmhurst	Away

QUICK STATS

40 points : career high of Grant Leiendecker
62.8 team average for points on offense
51.6 team average for points given up on defense
88 - 55 career record for Coach Chris Johnson
168-88 team record in 12 years as a part of NHC
6-0 team record at home

Boys track prepares for seasons

By Josh Butcher
Writer

Another long winter of extra training is in store for the Homestead boys track and field team. Some of the boys started working out as early as December, running at the YMCA, and most of the guys are starting in early January doing various workouts. This year, to prepare, not only have they started practicing earlier indoors, but have had much harder workouts. This dedication and hard work will hopefully show, as the boys are excited to finally get their season underway.

The boy's track team may not have a lot of depth this year, but they definitely have some very strong members that will step it up. With some talented seniors, this may be a year for them to really shine. Some key members on the team this year will be Ben Townsend (12) Bryce Heckber (12), and Kenneth Perkins (12).

As some may think, the sport of track and field is not just running around in a circle. The team consists of athletes who perform in the various events of running, throwing, jumping, or pole vault. There are 16 events in all: the 100, 200, 400, and 800-meter dash, the 1600 and 3200-meter run, high and low hurdles, the 400, 1600, and 3200-meter relay, shot put, discuss, high and low jump, and pole vault. Practices for the runners usually consist of warm ups, lots of hard running of long or short distances, and specific aspects such as starts out of the block. The throwers work on increasing power and practicing their steps for their throws. The jumpers do different drills to increase strength and quickness needed to jump, and the pole vaulters' practice usually includes warm ups, running, and, of course, getting lots of practice pole vaulting.

The team goal is, of course, to win conference, but also the team would really like to see some guys go to state.

"Our goal as a team is to win conference," said high and long jumper Kyle Knezovich (11). "We tied last year instead of winning it outright. I also would personally love to have a chance at state."

The runners are going to have to hold the team together this year. The strength of the team lies in the sprinters and other running events.

"Field events are going to be our weakness, so we're going to need people to step it up in that area," said high jumper Desmond Lewis (11). The team may not have ultimate depth but each event has some strong competitors.

There is a lot to look forward to in boys' Varsity track this season. The team has some really great competitors looking to get to state and possibly break some records while they are at it. The boys are improving greatly by their hard work this winter and are focused on winning and accomplishing their goals. The team will continue to work hard and increase the amount of conditioning, to be ready for a tremendous season.

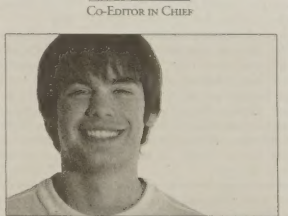
SCHEDULE

VARSITY BOYS TRACK & FIELD

3.3	Huntington North	Away
3.10	NSR @ Purdue	Away
3.18	NSR Finals @ I.U.	Away
3.22	Elmhurst	Home
3.28	South Side @ Hunt. N.	Away
4.12	Columbia City	Away
4.15	North Side	Away
4.18	East Noble/Belmont	Home
4.22	Harding Relays	Away
4.25	Dekalb/Carroll	Away
4.29	Lime City Relays	Away
5.2	New Haven/Norwell	Away

Many lessons to learn from roller coaster Colts season

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor in Chief



Oh how quickly things can change in just a month. On December 11, the Colts were reveling in their latest victory, a 26-18 win over the Jacksonville, their thirteenth consecutive victory to begin the season. They were on top of the world and looked poised to complete the first perfect 16-0 regular season since the Dolphins in 1972. But over the next week and a half, the elation was replaced with disappointment, and then devastation.

The Chargers ended the Colt's bid for perfection on December 18. The loss was frustrating and disappointing, but altogether did not matter in the large scope of things. Indy had already clinched home field advantage and now looked to rest its players for the playoffs.

But the loss was soon rendered obsolete compared to what transpired in Tampa, Florida midweek. When I heard of James Dungy's death, my heart sank. And I couldn't help shedding a tear when I saw Dungy's statement to the press following his son's funeral.

"We loved our son very much, he loved us and we miss him terribly. James was a good young man with a compassionate heart and we were glad to have him for 18 years. God has him now for the rest of eternity," he said.

And we all cheered for the Colts like we never had before when Dungy returned to coach the team in their finale against the Cardinals. Not for our own personal pleasure, but for Dungy. And as if it were scripted in Hollywood, they won it on the final play of the game. And I couldn't help shedding a tear again when Dungy held his hands to the crowd at the end of the game and gave all the fans a simple smile, thanking them and the world for its support.

And we all said that Indy was going to win one for Dungy. And we dreamed about how special it would be when the Lombardi trophy would be lifted to the heavens and dedicated to the legacy of James.

Unfortunately, it never happened. The Pittsburgh Steelers made sure of it, out hustling, outplaying, and outwitting the Colts in a wild Divisional playoff game, 21-18. Indy was dominated throughout, trailing by 18 heading into the fourth quarter. But a few fortuitous bounces and curious calls later, the Colts were in position to tie it late in the game. And we all breathed a sigh of relief as Vanderjagt's steady foot sent the ball careening towards the goalpost 46 yards away.

It never had a chance. Whether it was bad footing or a bad snap, we'll never know, but Vanderjagt missed it. And we all sat in disbelief. And we asked God why he let him miss it because we were all so convinced that it was this team's destiny. We all wondered how the script could be written so perfectly and fail so miserably.

And once again, I couldn't help shedding a tear. And again, it was not because I was disappointed with my team. I shed a tear for a man I've never met. And for a trophy that will not be raised this year in memory of a fallen son. And for a team that so desperately wanted to win one for the man that deserved it the most.

And we all moved on with our lives. We took finals, we went to work, we went to the gym, and we went to the movies. And we all look forward to next season, when our team will once again take the field in hopes of finally capturing a championship. And we will cheer. And we will scream. And they will probably win some. And they will probably lose some. But we must always remember it is just a game. Our family is something we take for granted every day. We must remember to love them and value them above all else. Tony would tell all of us the same thing. In fact, he did:

"Parents, hug your kids every chance you get," he said. "Tell them you love them every chance you get because you don't know when it's going to be the last time."

PHOTOS BY ZACH METRICK

A varsity swimmer competes in the breaststroke during the Norwell meet. Both girls and boys teams, along with the diving team, took first place at the conference meet. The girls will compete at sectionals on February 4.

Above: Keisha Bartholme (12) dives with perfect form. Below: Teammates share a hug after a personal record.

Making a splash

Swim, dive teams strive to succeed at state again this season

By Tim Clark
Writer

When you think of Homestead and championships in the same sentence, it's likely swimming won't initially make it into the mix. Sure, Homestead has had its fair share of great football teams, the band has consecutively gone to state for as long as anyone can remember, and the tennis team is also one of the more dominant teams in the state. But sitting out of the spotlight is the swim and dive team trying to build a dynasty of its own. The team has been marked by stellar performances over the last few years, including a second place finish at state two years ago by the boys team. This might, however, be due to the lack of competition around the Fort Wayne area.

"For the past couple of years, as long as I've been here at Homestead, we've been first in the conference, we've been first in our sectional, and there's really not many teams around here that can compete with us," diver Cameron Hansbarger (12) said. "There's definitely some talent around the area individually, but as a team, I think we have a dominant team in the area."

Both the boys and the girls teams are doing well this year, wiping out the competition in and around the Fort Wayne area. However, they know that deeper competition lies ahead down around the I-465 loop.

"We've won every single meet except for getting second at the Homestead Invitational which is the best we've done in a long time so that's really good for us," swimmer Kelly Johnson (12) said. "We won conference, but I think our real goals are really set towards state and sectionals; like the bigger meets."

Both Homestead teams lost to North Central, an Indianapolis team, at the Homestead Invitational. For boys competition, North Central is ranked first in the state, while the Homestead is ranked second. For the girls, Homestead is ranked fifth behind the likes of Carmel, North Central, Yorktown, and Muster, respectively. Although both teams' success has been flattering, the team leaders understand that improvement is always welcome and that it will be necessary to make a distinct run at the state meet.

"We've wanted to improve over all," swimmer Jessica Skiba (11) said. "We lost Emily Ring and Macy Zander last year. I think we want to work on our technique and get a lot faster. Comparing times from conference this year and conference last year; we are so much faster. We just all want to have a perfect meet, everyone swim their best, and get as many girls to state as possible. We want to win."

Johnson agreed, but added that it will be tougher for the girls to bring home a state championship against some of the tougher Indianapolis teams.

"I don't know about first because the teams like Carmel are stacked," Johnson said. "They have a ton of really talented swimmers. I think coming in third would be just as good as first for us though."

Hansbarger, however, says that most of the athletes on both teams are hitting their goals and have been improving all season long. With all of this improvement, he hopes that the boys can bring home a state championship.

"So far it seems like everybody has hit their top times and I know the divers are hitting the scores they want to hit this year," Hansbarger said. "Right now we're ranked second in the state. I know our goal is to win state obviously, but we can always be happy with second and we came in second my sophomore year so getting second again would be great, but definitely first would be our main goal."

It might seem like Homestead's swim and dive team takes a back seat with Homestead sports, but these swimmers and divers hope that the success by both teams thus far will eventually draw the students to come out and support them.

"I love the swim team," Johnson said with a chuckle. "I think we are going to do really great this year so everyone should come watch us at state."

If you build the dynasty, they will come.

SCHEDULE

VARSITY SWIMMING

1.31	Concordia	Away
2.4	Girls Sectional	Home
2.7	Girls Regional	Away
2.10	Girls State	Away
2.18	Boys Sectional	Home
2.21	Boys Regional	Away

Player Spotlight

Samantha Nolting, Diver, Andrew Hoffman, Swimmer

By Tim Clark
Writer

All sports teams have leaders in some form or another. There is the loud type that you can hear a mile away, even when the crowd is roaring. There is also the kind that parent the younger generations, closely analyzing their every move. Finally, there is the quiet type: the ones who stand by and, when needed, come to the aid of a fallen teammate. Being of a quiet nature doesn't automatically make these individuals timid in their actions. Homestead is blessed to have two of this type of leader on the swim and dive team. Samantha Nolting (12) and Andrew Hoffman (12) won't jump out at you as the most energetic team leaders in history. They lead the team as needed, and lead by example when they can. This is evident by the way their teammates praise them.

"She's always a really hard worker," diver Cameron Hansbarger (12) said of Samantha Nolting. "At practices, at meets, she's always helping out the underclassmen, helping out the new freshmen, and doing whatever she can. She's achieved a lot."

Being leaders does not mean that they be hard-nosed and strict all the time. Hoffman is a prime example of this. Even in the halls you can see him cracking a joke or two to a fellow classmate as he has done for years now.

"He's a lot of fun to swim with," swimmer Kelly Johnson (12) said. "He's a great personality. He makes swim practices a lot more fun. He's really hard working and he's a really great person to work with."

Becoming a team leader, however, comes with years of hard work and maturing through life. It takes a skilled individual in and out of the water to be able to take another person aside and mentor them as a team leader would. Samantha is known around the school as a caring and outgoing individual but she did not realize how good of a diver she was until she tried out for the dive team a few years ago. Later on, those two talents would merge to make her the kind of leader she is today for the dive team.

"I did gymnastics all through elementary school and middle school," Nolting said. "Then, I just decided one day to try out for diving in sixth grade. I did it and made the team and just continued on from then.

Samantha was a first-team all conference for all four years that she has attended Homestead. She also won sectionals her freshman year and earned second place her sophomore and junior year. Finally, she captured 15th at state her sophomore year and 12th her junior year. Although she has become one of Homestead's most successful female divers in the last few years, Nolting admits that there are many reasons beyond her success that keep her in the sport.

"Just the competitiveness," Nolting said. "Just going out there and doing your best; and it's always fun to hang around all the diving friends. It's really challenging because you challenge yourself everyday to get better. You always learn something new. It is just fun to always try and do your best."

Dive coach Jill Eakright is pleased to have an individual as successful and as mature as Nolting is for the dive team. Her confidence has improved throughout the years with hard work, and Eakright believes that she can count on Nolting to be very consistent while competing.

"She's got a good work ethic," Eakright said. "She doesn't want to get out of practice till everything is done. She's pretty persistent at working at things that are giving her a hard time."

Eakright understands that Nolting is a quiet leader and has nothing but praise for the senior that brings so much to the table each and every day.

"She does a real good job of leading by example," Eakright said. "She does very well in that aspect. She's not always one to be the loudest cheerleader or that kind of thing, but she's always a quiet encourager and is always there to support the kids in that kind of way."

Swim coach Chad Englehart has similar words for Hoffman, who has been one of his best swimmers the last few years.

"He's come up through the club system, so he's been a year-round swimmer for a number of years," Englehart said. "He's gone to the state championships and things like that."

Andrew began swimming at the age of six and kept on with it. He says that he sticks with swimming because it's fun for him and it keeps him busy. Hoffman plans to attend either Purdue University or the University of Notre Dame next year. But before that time comes, Hoffman is focused on leading the swim team as best he can while having some fun at the same time.

"I think I'm an easy-going person and easy to get along with," Hoffman said. "I try to bring some fun into practice but I also know how to work hard, and I lead by example while I'm in the water."

Englehart agrees that Hoffman's work ethic and determination make him a great leader for the swim team.

"He's very competitive," Englehart said. "He hates to lose. He likes a challenge. He's kind of a quiet leader. He's not one to be out in front, but he tends to try and let his actions speak for him."

Hoffman also displays a 'team-first' attitude, saying that he puts the teams' goals before his own.

"I'd really like to see our teams do well, first of all," Hoffman said. "Hopefully first or second in state this year. For myself, I'd just like to improve on what I've done last year which of course was fourth in the 500 and seventh in the 200."

While a specific individual normally won't make or break any kind of team, they can affect the overall morale of any team or another individual player with the way they display themselves and act as leaders. Both Nolting and Hoffman display these characteristics and they make for two of the best team-leaders a high school sports team could ask for.

PHOTOS BY MARGARET DISTLER

Andrew Hoffman (12) looks up after his race. Hoffman began swimming at six-years-old and plans to continue in college.

Above: Samantha Nolting (12) stands with her mother at senior night where all seniors were recognized. Right: Nolting performs the primary steps to complete a dive at the conference meet.

Editorial board review: Carroll student expulsion sparks controversy

When John Stewart jokes around each weeknight, he can't help but get some laughs. Stewart's jokes are relevant, barbed and often intelligent. His world is much like a high school in fact, the entire American culture are his classmates, and Stewart is just an exceptionally good class clown. Jeff Fraser might have been a class clown, but he was also a determined student at Carroll high school who founded the Allen County Teenage Republicans. Fraser was 17 when he wrote his first book, "Carroll" a parody of Stewart's satire: "America (The Book)." Unlike Stewart, Fraser's first book was greeted not with witty reviews by the New York Times, but by an expulsion.

Fraser's 14-page, "Carroll: The Book," includes various forms of satire aimed at the administration, members of the facility for their teaching methods, and several students. It seems to be a perfectly innocent piece of criticism. Though it is perhaps not done so in the most polite or effective manner, it is merely an expression of the frustrations and concerns many students face.

In response to reading Fraser's work, the administration initially decided to suspend him for 10 days, a decision which soon was revised to expulsion. The argument used to justify such a decision was two-fold. First, although the First Amendment does guarantee free speech, whether or not this applies to high school students is a frequent source of debate. Second, Fraser used school computers to print copies of the book, which the school claims censoring rights over.

Fraser was expelled several days after an expulsion hearing on January 4. He has appealed the decision, and awaits review from the NACS school board.

This expulsion brings into focus the delicate balance school administrations have had to meet between freedom of speech and the protection of their staff and other students' rights.

Homestead's own policy on student press is just as vague as Carroll's. According to SACS Board Policy 2070, students have no real right to freedom of access to the student body regarding their views or criticism of the administration. This policy can be found on the SACS website.

So if publishing your own piece is illegal at Homestead, where should I student with strong feelings go?

"The Spartana is the vehicle for students to communicate to their peers and the school community about issues that are important to students," Principal Dianne Moake said. "The best way for any student to communicate with administrators about concerns is to come and talk with us. Certainly taking an editorial position on a school issue is appropriate for a student publication."

The editorial board agrees with Moake that the Spartana is one of the best places for student's to express their opinion. The fact that this paper is an open forum makes it ideal for this purpose. But we do not agree with the overall censorship involved when criticism is written by a student.

"Criticism or concerns about a situation or an individual should be addressed with that individual. Concerns about programs or policies should go to the person(s) who oversee(s) the programs or policies. After fully investigating the concern, writing a factual article about the issue is appropriate."

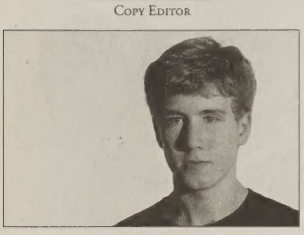
The idea that a student should approach a specific policy or individual with a problem is ludicrous. Students who are bold enough to write material critical of the administration obviously are not looking to talk with the administration, they are looking for change brought around by the students themselves.

The editorial board holds that, while Fraser and students who produce critical pieces on school property may be censored, those who approach the administration with printed material should be granted the chance to distribute "approved" material to the student body. We ask that the administration work with students who have a criticism, and should they want to distribute, that those students should be given the opportunity to do so after their material has been approved based on its literary worth, and relevance to the audience, rather than judged on a simple litmus test of criticism versus everything else.

Don't silence those already born

Fuzzy Edges

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor



She didn't mean for it to happen. It was an accident, a tiny mistake. A few minutes, and a momentary lapse of sense, sensibility and thought. Her name was Mary, her boyfriend's was John. She thought hè loved her. He told her so. And her friends had already, so she reasoned that it would be okay. And in one moment, her life came crashing down. Her mother was furious. Her father was gone already. John wouldn't acknowledge it was true. Mary was scared.

Should Mary abort her first child at age 17? Should she stop the atoms forming, halt creation in it's first step, kill what would become life? Should she stop God's work with the swift stroke of a pen and a quick visit downtown? Can a young girl make that decision? Can a girl walk into a clinic full of steel and strange smells, and erase that mistake?

Or perhaps Mary should wait nine months. She should leave school and wait at home, catching soaps on her couch while those atoms form, and cells split. She should watch her friends graduate, catch her homecoming game highlights on Channel 21. Mary should sit in her home, supported by her mother alone, dreaming of what her new life could have become.

So, what'll it be? According to the Guttmacher Institute, a "nonprofit organization focused on sexual and reproductive health research," as of 1999 there were nearly one million pregnant teen women in America each year. 56 percent of those who are impregnated choose to give birth to the child. 30 percent choose abortion, and 14 percent of teen pregnancies end in miscarriage. 78 percent of teen pregnancies were unplanned. Seven in ten teen mothers do finish high school, but they are less likely than women who delay childbearing to go to college.

Two weeks ago, state Representative Troy Woodruff filed a bill that would make abortion illegal in Indiana. Doctors who performed abortions under the new bill would be guilty of a Class C felony. Most women would be unable to receive abortions legally, including victims of rape and incest. Woodruff hopes the bill will be a vehicle to overturn Roe vs. Wade in the more conservative court now held by John Roberts (and soon to be joined by Samuel Alito).

So, what should teen mothers do? What will they choose when everything is on the line? Within the next decade, they may not have a choice. There may be only one option to Mary, or to victims of rape, or incest.

Abortion horrifies me, and to be faced with that decision must be one of the most terrible of any girl's life. But teens must have a say in this battle. Teen mothers across the country cannot be silenced from this moral battle because they're too young to be citizens or to vote. They are old enough to love, to create life, and to abort their first child. And while politicians may fight for children not yet born, they must also hear the voices of daughters already in this world.

Students should learn to "open his/her eyes wider;" to understand concepts rather focus on letter grades

By Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

What is more important: being able to recall the theme of a novel, or understanding why it is the theme, and how the lessons from a novel may be applied to life? A majority of students, teachers, and parents would find the latter part of the question to be more important. However, because society has attached a letter grade to the value of education, a majority of students find that they are in school only to pass. It has become increasingly evident that students find themselves doing "whatever it takes," to make the grade, and not understanding the true essence of learning.

The true meaning of schooling is so that a student learns to open his or her eyes wider. Parents remember the age when their children used to question everything by attaching a "why" at the end of every explanation. It seems as though now students are just solving the math problem because that's the way the teacher taught it to them.

Public institutions and colleges, who have fueled the argument that letter grades are most important, are beginning to take steps to change this view. Student input is used to gauge the student's grasp of the material. These colleges are finding that along with helping students understand the reasoning behind theories, they have seen a decrease in the number of cheating incidents. Perhaps the reason behind this may be because students who cheat are those that feel that the letter grade is all that matters. Colleges have also begun to place more emphasis on extracurriculars, from volunteering to participation in clubs and other organizations. Students who participate in clubs realize that they are not working for a letter grade and are therefore more apt to learn rather than memorize.

A major factor in this battle between immediate result (grade) and the long-term benefits of education is standardized testing. Under the No Child Left Behind law and especially in Indiana with the additional burden of Istep+ testing, students and teachers are measured directly against a standard each year, and judgments (such as schools being punished for poor test scores or students being held back) are based on these tests. Thus the government itself is emphasizing the immediate results of education, helping to fuel students' diminishing views of the long-term benefits of education.

Grades are a part of life at a school. Measuring a student against his peers and against his previous scores can be beneficial, but it has helped contribute to a culture that values the initial result far more than the long-term benefits. This has encouraged a myriad of problems, from cheating to blind memorization in order to do "whatever it takes" to make the grade. With the government pushing this theory ever more, and teachers placed under the same stresses for immediate performance, students of this generation may find it harder and harder to concentrate on the overriding goals of education, rather than one more "A+" on the report card.

A riot of my own

Extremists poisoning Christianity

By Jim Katz
Writer

Religions can a wonderful thing, inspiring charity, peace, and general good will toward each other. They can also be pretty scary.

Christianity, though always the most prevalent religion in the United States, has had a surge in its influence over culture and politics over the past several years. This is not what's scary.

Christianity is a wonderful religion, based upon the principles and teaching of Jesus Christ, who taught that one must live a life a charity and honesty and must work to make the world and better and more holy place.

The general ideals and principles of Christianity, anybody could accept.

The problem arises when Christians allow themselves to be sucked into focusing on minute aspects of their religion by these egomaniacs.

One of these supposed Christians in is James Dobson Ph. D., who is the host of "Focus on the Family" a radio program which is broad cast to over 6,000 stations worldwide, in over twelve different languages.

Dobson is able to, through his program, have a significant impact on many Christians views on society and politics.

He not only speaks out against homosexuality, but he encourages the view that homosexuality can be cured in adults and prevented in children.

He also parallels stem cell research with the experiments in which the Nazis used Jews and other prisoners as test subjects.

Dobson holds a significant amount of political power, supposedly blackmailing many senators into voting his way, threatening to have them defeated through his influence.

Marion Gordon Robertson, more commonly known at Pat Robertson, is the host of "The 700 Club". On his program he has been know to say such welcoming and warm messages as:

"You say you're supposed to be nice to the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists and this, that, and the other thing. Nonsense. I don't have to be nice to the spirit of the Antichrist."

Robertson claims that his prayers have unparallel power. He claims to have prayed the paths of Hurricane Gloria, Felix, and Isabel.

He takes credit for praying Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor into resignation. He calls feminism a:

"…socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."

In response to Disney World allowing a privately sponsored "Gay Days" weekend in 1998, Robertson said that this acceptance of homosexuality could lead to hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, terrorist bombs and "possibly a meteor."

His recent statements include: calling to assassinate Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, claiming that God had abandoned Dover, Pennsylvania when the school board voted against teaching intelligent design, and claiming that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's stroke was God's punishment for giving land to the Palestinians.

Perhaps the scariest of all of these "Christians" is Fred Phelps, the leader of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Phelps claims to be a prophet, God's sole true voice on earth. He runs several websites, including: "godhatesfags.com", "PriestsRapeBoys.com", and "godhatesamerica.com". His statements include:

"Not only is homosexuality a sin, but anyone who supports fags are just as guilty as they are. You are both worthy of death."

"All gays and lesbians are liars and murderers at heart, like their father, Satan."

Though most Christians do not subscribe to Phelps', or any of these extremists', views, many do. Christianity is a wonderful faith, but these crusaders are convincing people not only that fighting evolution and homosexuality are central Christianity values, but that one must hate to be Christian.

Now that is scary.

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Editorial Policy

The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to *The Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-Mail: thespartana@gmail.com

Eye Contact: Portraits

a photo essay by zach hetrick

the faces of Homestead

chrisreed, senior

izicdesanto, junior

mariajacobs, junior

nataliesistrunk, junior

gerellelandner, junior

lukewomble, sophomore

kevinwhisenant, freshman

alexdefreeuw, freshman

allisonlevine, junior

nickreuille, sophmore

kimkaste, freshman

rachelbutts, sophomore

kurtnettleton, senior

mikesalvador, junior

benlandin, junior

rachelchilders, junior

hannahruckel, senior

isangisang, junior

whitneyjohnson, senior

jacobmesser, freshman

codyprezbindowski, sophomore

katieveith, junior

julienguyen, junior

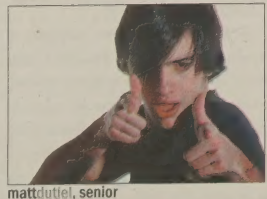
emilynestel, senior

stevenmendenhall, senior

jamiefraizer, teacher

mikecobb, junior

margaretdistler, freshman


chrisrozman, freshman

mattdutiel, senior

susanbradford, senior

andrewhabegger, junior

evanhanley, freshman

katiepeterson, sophomore

saadsaffo, senior

sarahfagan, junior

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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the Spartana

Sectional Bound

Grant Leiendecker (12) and the varsity basketball team are poised to make a run at the sectional title. For the seven seniors, its their last shot. page 4

Homestead hosts annual speech meet

After hard work, speech looks towards state competition after a successful regular season

By Karolina Heyduk
Writer

The speech team competed against high schools from across the region in the annual meet hosted at Homestead. The meet required much preparation from students, coaches, and parent volunteers the sponsor of the club, Travis Fisher said. He felt that the efforts paid off in a successful meet for all involved.

The students on the speech team had been testing the waters throughout the 2005-2006 season. The Homestead meet on Jan. 28 allowed the team to compete against some of their toughest rivals, including the larger teams such as Northrop and South Side, as well as smaller but equally strong schools like Dwenger, Norwell and Concordia.

Hosting a meet begins with reserving a date on the state speech website and sending out an invitation to neighboring schools. The success of hosting so many teams relied on work done behind the scenes; there were judges, events, and schedules for students to be organized, volunteers to be recruited, and rooms to be assigned. Refreshments were provided for nearly 300 people and an awards ceremony was held at the close of the meet. Students and parent volunteers helped with the set up.

MORE ON CLUBS
page 11, Intramural basketball heats up
page 2, photos from Elite and Class Royale's Cabaret night

"I helped out by filling out ballots for all the events, sorting ribbons, [and] putting the trophies together…in the week before the meet," Vasundhara Bhargava (10) said. Bhargava is treasurer for the team. In addition to competing, Bhargava felt

see Speech, on page 2

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Gary Huber (12) says goodbye to Gunnery Sergeant Wyatt Schweikert at the recruiter's station in Jefferson Pointe while Ron Brown (12) looks on.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Ron Brown

"[Joining the Corps] is all I've wanted to do. All the training and all the deployment, it's all something new."

Story by Austin Hetrick, Photos by Zach Hetrick

Ron Brown (12) and Gary Huber (12) are at attention. At this moment, the two young men are tasting their first marine meal. They're staring, bleary eyed, into the face of a drill sergeant, or racing the clock in a pre-dawn run. At this moment, they're meeting challenges that few of us will ever face, a life-changing 13 weeks called boot camp. But they will not be alone on the journey: Brown and Huber were not born in the same family, but all the same they are brothers.

"I've been thinking about it everyday," Huber said of boot camp before shipping out. "I wake up and I think about it, I go to bed and I think about it. There's just no way I can stop thinking about it."

Brown, recognizable for years by his military attire, has never sought anything but the Marines. His dedication to the Corps has been complete since before he could remember, and he proudly displays the marks of it: his hair is nearly regulation cut, his muscles toned from constant training, and his legs forceful from years of track to

see Brothers, on page 12, for story and photo essay

Gary Huber

"I just want to be a part of something … [the Iraqi people] need our help, and we are able to give it to them."

BRIEFS

CENTERPOINT
Student transcripts can now be viewed via SACS Centerpoint. Online transcripts can only be viewed by using a parent's Centerpoint account. These transcripts contain the grades of students from middle school onwards. However, transcripts printed off from Centerpoint may not be used in place of official school transcripts.

RUGBY KICK-OFF
Lindsay Eckler is hosting a dinner for the rugby club, Women's Puma Rugby, on Feb. 9. Following their last seasons successes, this dinner is a kick-off for the rugby club's season. Famous women's baseball pitcher Dotty Wiltse Collins will be the special guest at this event. Additionally, returning veteran players will be attending this special dinner.

FRENCH CLUB
French Club will be visiting South Side High School on Feb. 28 for Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is a celebration of Fat Tuesday, or the day before the first day of Lent. The students plan on playing French games, and eating French foods to commemorate this day. For more information or if you would like to go on this trip talk to Mrs. Ferkel in room 609.

DEBATE TEAM
The debate team had its state competition at Ben Davis High School on Feb. 3, 4, and 5.

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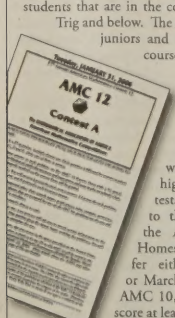
PAGE 4, Sports : Varsity basketball enters post season
PAGE 5, Sports : Three varsity wrestlers eye semi-state bid
PAGE 6, Sports : Girls basketball begins sectionals; dance team in heat of competition season
PAGE 7, Sports : Girls swimming defends sectional title
PAGE 8, Life : Valentine's Day approaches
PAGE 9, Life : Phil Aleman: A closer look; students volunteer on their own
PAGE 10, Life : Buffalo Wild Wings review; 'The Fray' debuts with 'how to save a life'
PAGE 11, Life : Intramural basketball heats up at the YMCA; a day in the life of Susie Johnson
PAGE 12, Life : Eye Contact: brothers in arms

Math students take AMC 10 and 12 exams

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Math students in all four grades participated in the annual AMC (American Math Contest). The AMC is split up into two different tests, the AMC 10 being the easier of the two and the AMC 12 being the tougher. The AMC 10 is taken by students that are in the courses Honor's Trig and below. The AMC 12 is for juniors and seniors in the courses Honor's Trig and above. The tests were taken on Tuesday, Jan. 31.



Students who score highly in these tests move on to the next level, the AIME, which Homestead will offer either March 8 or March 22. For the AMC 10, students who score at least a 120 on the test or are in the top one

see AMC, on page 2A

Class Royale members Andy Wirtner (12), Caitlin Ferrell (12), and Mike Peck (11) perform their glove routine at Cabaret night on Feb. 3.

Sold out 'Cabaret night' raises money for show choirs

By Jim Katz
Writer

Once again, the school's show choirs have hosted their largest annual fund raiser, Cabaret night.

The evening, held on Feb. 3, began with free desserts for guests as they bid on the various silent auctions displayed throughout the commons. The show began at seven in the auditorium with the emcee for the evening, Ryan Elijah, welcoming everyone.

The first group to perform was Summit and Woodside's combined show choir, Class Act. The group is made up of more than 60 performers from both middle schools. Their show was a compellation of songs from "The Wizard of Oz" and its recently-made prequel, "Wicked."

Following Class Act, Melanie Bush, the currently-reigning "Miss Fort Wayne," took the stage, where she performed a solo tap number to Elvis Presley's "A Little Less Conversation."

Afterwards, the first segment of the fund raising portion of the evening began. 17 raffle winners and

see Cabaret, on page 2

'Variety' '06 sells out

Students, parents gather to see many acts, musical talents, comedy routines

By Kelly Childs
Writer

Homestead's 2006 Variety Show started with an energetic jazz ensemble that set a high pace for the show that did not slow down the entire night. The first band, composed of Tofer Flowers, Dante Gallucci (11), Nick Hurtsell (12), Eric Krafcheck (11), Zak Labas (11), Brian Marks, (11) Nate Mensah (12), Danny Panyard (12), Kristen Reiske (11), Eric Schultz (11), Jon Swain (11), Hari Vasu (11), and Brad Zehr, performed their piece, "Birdland."

After The Marksmen completed their song, Carly Ellis entered the stage and filled the auditorium with a melodic ballad entitled "Babygirl."

Once Ellis finished her song, another soloist entered the stage doing back handsprings. Trevor Alt (12) danced his hip-hop solo, "Who Wants This," which was complete with backflips and handsprings.

The next performers in the show were Jack Coleman (12), Logan Derck (12), and Alex Williams (12). Their band began their act by playing the song, "My Sharona."

Derek Thieme (12), sings during last Wednesday's variety show.

After this band finished, Heather Schmidt entered the stage and brought with her a new act that is not commonly seen in the show. She performed a martial arts demonstration, which was accompanied

see Variety, on page 2

THE LINEUP

The Marksmen
Brian Marks, Brad Zehr, Nick Huttsell, Danny Panyard, Hari Vasu, Eric Kratcheck, Dante Gallucci, Jon Swain, Nate Mensah, Kristin Reiske, Tofer Flowers, Eric Schultz, Zak Labas

Babygirl
Carly Ellis

Who Wants This?
Trevor Alt

My Sharona
Logan Derck, Jack Coleman, Alex Williams

Brought to Life
Heather Schmidt

Hotel California
Mike Peck, Jordan Logan, Jon Kolhoff, Mike Needler, Trevor Krall

Freaker By The Speaker
Jon Swain

Do Ya Dig?
Jon Swain, Zak Labas, Dante Gallucci

Mommy
Kailly Fisher

Stand-Up comedy
Greg Kyes-Myland

Blackbird
Andy Wirtner

Runnoft
Kurt Nettleton, Ian McCormick, Derek Thieme

Shake
Jenna Wise, Kelly Childs, Alex Kruse

Wacky Paki Paradise
Mike Peck, Nate Haffner

Ice, Ice, Danny
Danny White, Steve Clark, Ben Townsend, Chris Miller

Chicago, 25 or 6 to 4
Tom Lyday, Jon Swain, Tofer Flowers, Eric Schultz, Phil Carroll, Danny Panyard, Jeff Walker, Nate Mensah, Nick Kaczorowski

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Far Left: Jon Swain (11) solos during one of his four appearances at the variety show. Left: Mike Peck (11), along with Nate Haffner (11, not pictured), plays his part of a piano duet, titled "Wacky Paki Paradise." Haffner and Peck wrote the piece. Above: Brad Zehr (11) plays his saxophone with the group, Do ya dig?

Variety, continued from page 1

an Evanescence song.

The next act was Hotel California, played by Trevor Krall (11), Jon Kohloff (11), Jordan Logan (11), Mike Needler (11) and sung by Mike Peck (11).

After their performance, Swain took the stage and played a fast-beat guitar solo called Freaker by the Speaker. Then Gallucci and Labas joined him and they played their act, Do Ya Dig.

When the boys were done performing, Kailly Fisher (12) came on stage and danced a hip-hop solo. Her song, by Missy Elliott, was entitled Mommy.

After Fisher's dance, Greg Kyes-Myland came on stage and did stand up comedy, another unique act that is not usually seen in Homestead's show.

When the laughter subsided, Andy Wirtner (12) came on stage and lulled the audience with his guitar solo of the Beatles's song, Blackbird.

The next musicians entered after Wirtner's piece, and performed Runnoft, which is from the movie 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' The three members, Ian McCormick (12), Kurt Nettleton (12), and Derek Thieme (12), even dressed in overalls, flannel, barefeet, and wore fake beards, much like the movie.

Once they were done, Kelly Childs (12), Alex Kruse (12), and Jenna Wise (10) took the stage and performed Shake, a part tap, part hip-hop dance done to the Ying-Yang Twins song.

Then Hillary McBride (12) showed her talent by singing Restless and impressed the audience with her voice.

When the stage was set with two grand pianos for the next act, Nate Haffner (11) and Peck entered and performed their duet, Wacky Paki Paradise. The song the two played was an original piece that they composed completely on their own.

Steve Clark (12), Chris Miller (12), Ben Townsend (12), and Danny White (11) came out next and performed Ice, Ice, Danny; an a cappella version of Vanilla Ice's Ice, Ice Baby rap.

The last performance of the night ended with as much gusto with which the show began. Many of the opening numbers' members returned to the stage to perform Chicago, a jazz piece.

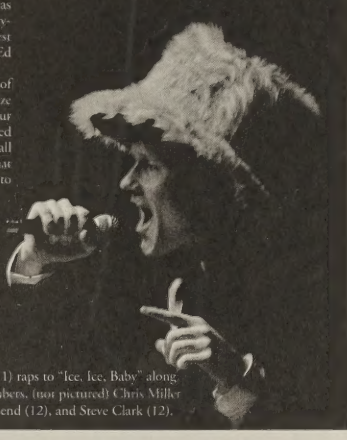
The musicians, Phil Carroll (11), Flowers, Nick Kaczorowski (12), Tom Lyday (12), Mensah, Panyard, Schultz, Swain, and Jeff Walker (11) played an encore piece while the audience exited.

"I was thrilled with the show. From start to finish, I think it was one of the best Homestead has ever had. I have been doing the show for twenty-four years and I think this is one of the strongest shows I have seen. It was packed with talent," Ed Koczergo said.

"Being an emcee was awesome. It was a lot of work, though. I don't think many people realize that we came up with the stuff completely on our own and all of it was in our hands. We worked really hard, so it was really rewarding to see all the people show up and it was even better that they laughed at the things that were supposed to be funny," Bowers said.

Koczergo felt that there will always be stellar bands, singers, and dancers, but with the variety of performers, this year there was more.

"The audience was fabulous. Nothing makes me happier than to see six hundred students enjoying their peer group. That is what's most important, for everyone to have fun and really enjoy themselves," Koczergo said.



Danny White (11) raps to "Ice, Ice, Baby" along with group members, (not pictured) Chris Miller (12), Ben Townsend (12), and Steve Clark (12).

Cabaret, continued from page 1

11 door prize winners were chosen by the reigning "Miss Three Rivers," Erin Cheever.

Elijah then brought Ken Button, a professional Auctioneer to the stage to run the first two of six live auctions throughout the evening. These two were entitled "We're Puttin' On The Ritz," and "Let's Eat Out!!"

Elite, the school's all-girl show choir took the stage, made of 38 performers. They performed a variety of 'pop' songs by artists ranging from KC & the Sunshine Band to Janet Jackson.

The silent auctions winners were announced, and then Tonya Cooper, the reigning "Miss IPFW," sang "The Prayer" by Celine Dion. Button returned to the stage for the next two live auctions, entitled "Kids Just Gotta Have Fun," and "Despos Custom Tailoring."

The Ball State Singers then performed their show, which drew material from a variety of genres. The group is made up of 42 men and women from Ball State University who traveled and toured in the People's Republic of China in 2005.

The final two live actions were for a "Bruce Ewing Fall Decorating Package" and a brand-new piano valued at $4500.

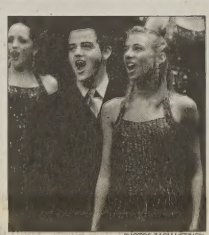
To end the evening, Class Royale, the school's 41-member, mixed show choir, performed their show themed around swing music.

Members of Class Royale had differing opinions about their performance.

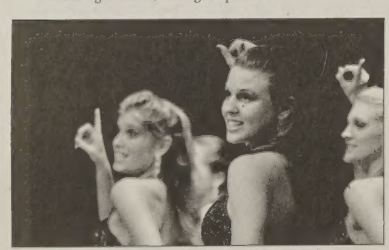
"I believe we have performed better before, but we had a decent show," Chris Reed (12) said.

Mike Peck (11), whose grandfather bought the piano in live auction, said of the evening:

"We had a great show, and I got a piano."



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK



Top: Members of Class Royale, TJ Samuels (12) and Kristina Kartholl (12) perform their ballad during Cabaret Night. Middle: Dressed like cows, Kelly Lehman (9) and Marissa Doner (10) show their jazz hands during Elite's performance. Bottom: Phil Thompson (11) and Emily Hart (12) dance together. Left: Meg Warner (12), a three-year veteran of show choir, dances during the all girls song.

Students turn to Sparknotes for quick, easy alternative to reading full novels

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

Sparknotes (www.sparknotes.com), according to their slogan, are "Today's Most Popular Study Guides." More and more students are turning to the online synopses as a way to circumvent reading entire novels.

"I read Sparknotes whenever they exist for a novel I'm reading," Tanner Billingsly (10) said.

Sparknotes are online study guides for all subjects, although they are most well-known for their use in literature. From Shakespeare to modern novels, the notes exist for many literary works. By using Sparknotes, students are able to read a summarized version of a novel, complete with character lists, chapter by chapter plot summaries, and analyses of major themes and ideas.

"Honestly, I think I use Sparknotes because I'm lazy and would rather read them (than an entire novel)," Billingsly said. However, many students use Sparknotes to supplement their reading or to better understand the symbols in a particular work. Some teachers even encourage their students to read the notes in order to evaluate the work on a deeper level.

"I think Sparknotes are good to further one's knowledge and understanding of a book," Rahul Gupta (10) said. "The notes are a concise synopsis explains the plot, symbols, and analyzes the book."

Although the study guides can help students, many view them negatively. Detractors of the website argue that the notes can not substitute for actually reading the literature. They argue that students are missing out on the novels themselves and do not get the full effect of a work simply by reading the synopsis.

Even users of the site such as Gupta can see the negative aspects of Sparknotes. "By not reading the literature students don't have the chance to experience the novel and make conclusions for themselves," Gupta said. "They never view the work from their own perspective."

Teachers too, have been affected by the more frequent use of Sparknotes by students.

"I think if they're used right its ok," Kathy deCalonne said. "But they should never be used as a substitute for the work itself. Sparknotes can help to put things together for students, but sometimes the analysis found on the website can be misleading."

However, she says that Sparknotes have never affected her teaching. At most, she struggles with designing a fair test that rewards those who read the work in its entirety. She also says that students who read only Sparknotes are doing themselves and the author a disservice. To deCalonne, reading Sparknotes versus reading a novel is like reading about a fire versus feeling a fire. The students are unable to really make a connection to the work simply by reading a synopsis.

"Sparknotes can't give a student the full experience of a novel," deCalonne said. "It is the details that give a book its richness. The purpose behind reading novels is to teach students to think, analyze, and draw conclusions for themselves. By reading a novel for themselves, students have their own experience of discovery."

COMMON WEBSITES

www.pinkmonkey.com - used for analysis, plot and character summaries
www.cliffsnotes.com - shorter versions of common novels
www.freebooknotes.com - free notes on common novels and books

CORRECTIONS

For the issue published on Jan. 27.

'06-'07 FINALS

Due to reporter error it was stated that the school board decided to change the school calendar for the 2006-2007 year and take finals before holiday break. This is incorrect, finals will be taken after holiday break.

AP COMPOSITION

The class will become a full year course, however, contrary to what was printed, English teacher Steven Clough will not be one of the educators teaching the course.

We, the Spartana staff, apologize for these errors.

Speech, continued from page 1

that her involvement in organizing made the meet more enjoyable.

Once preparations were completed, the rest of the meet was up to students. All speech events were open for competition, including international and domestic extemporaneous, interpretation (on prose, poetry, drama, oratory and humor), impromptu, original works, broadcasting, discussion, and congress.

Speech competitions are taken seriously by members of the team and individual preparations are done in the weeks before. Even with all the work that is required, hosting a meet still has advantages.

"It's just a more comfortable atmosphere," Bhargava said. "The best part about getting to host a meet is that it's our school, so when people get lost it's a really good feeling to help them out."

Pragya Sharma (12) agreed. "Somehow competing at Homestead made the meet more casual. I felt that I performed better at the Homestead meet."

After final judging, the results were announced and awards presented. Although the team that hosts a meet does not take a team trophy, individuals are still awarded.

Top finishers included Vasundhara Bhargava and Tanner Billinglsey (9) with first and third respectively in Foreign Extemporaneous, Nick Arnold (10) with second in Congress, and Lee Farnsworth (10) in second and Pragya Sharma in third in Discussion.

"Our students had a good day," Fisher said about the results of the meet. "I'm always pleased when the students practice hard and do their best."

"Overall [the meet] was a success," Sharma said.

The speech team will look for that same success in the upcoming sectional meet on March 4, district on March eighteenth, and the state speech meet on March 25. State is also upcoming for the speech team.

Fisher is hopeful about the future of the speech team, which includes many freshmen who have stepped in to take the spots left by last year's seniors.

"We've been pleased that so many freshmen have participated this year," Fisher said. "With this influx of new talent, the future for both the speech and debate teams is bright."

AMC, continued from page 1

percent move on to the next level. It is easier for the AMC 12; students that score a 100 or are in the top five percent move on to the next level.

A wrong answer on the AMC counts for zero points. An answer left blank counts for two and a half points, and a correct answer counts for six points. There are 25 questions on the test, with the total possible 150 points.

The AMC 12 offers scholarship money and other accolades to students who score extremely well. Several Indiana schools offer automatic scholarships to students who have a score of 100 or more. Manchester College and Valparaiso University each offer $1,000 to Indiana students who attain a score of 100 or more on the AMC 12. Ball State offers a $2,000 scholarship, and Purdue University offers a $2,500 scholarship. Rose-Hulman University offers by far the largest sum of money, presenting a $10,000 scholarship to students. These scholarships are offered automatically to any student who attains the required score.

"Because the AMC is a nationally recognized test, colleges have begun offering scholarships for good scores and are even including it on their applications. Many times, now, there is a place on the application to mark if you took the AMC or not," T.J. McCombs, Math Department Chair and head of AMC for four years, said.

The AMC 10 is meant as a practice for underclassmen, and does not offer scholarship money for those participants.

"The key thing at the AMC 10 level is the challenge. It is great practice and helps the kids to prepare for when they are competing for scholarships," McCombs said.

Though the results of this year's AMC competition were not available as of press date, last year was the school's best performance since the competition began being offered. In all, twelve students moved on to the second level, all of them having taken the AMC 12. Among the notable performances were Nathan Orlow ('06), who scored a 130 on last year's test, Jenny Shao (12), who scored a 108, and Sanjeev Balamohan, who also scored a 108 ('06).

The tests were both taken in the cafeteria during first and second periods, and students were allotted 75 minutes to answer the test's 25 questions.

"It is very conceptual. It is a lot like the SAT, but there are a lot of word problems and diagrams, rather than just number problems," Rachel Childers (11), who took the AMC 12, said.

The test is paid for by the school, and costs about $400 a year.

"I know the Honor's Trig kids were pretty much required to take it. It is free for them and is a great opportunity to get some help for college," McCombs said.

ISTEP+ should not move to spring, expenses too high

Voting along party lines, Indiana House Republicans sided with Governor Mitch Daniels on Thursday, Feb. 2 and approved legislation that would shift the ISTEP+ tests from the fall to the spring. GOP Superintendent Suellen Reed came out against the proposal on Wednesday and urged Republicans to block its passage.

The governor and superintendent disagree on the cost of the bill. Daniels believes there to be no cost to the move. However, Reed believes that a $45 million price tag will accompany the legislation over the period of four years. According to the Legislative Services Agency, the measure will cost $11.2 million over the next two years.

The bill won by a marginal vote. All 52 Republicans voted in its favor, and all 48 Democrats against it.

Democrats felt that the bill did not allocate proper funding for remedial students - those that fail the test.

The legislation would require the ISTEP+ exam to be given between May 1 and the end of the school year. Results would be back by June 15. Currently, schools cover material students learned the previous year.

The tests will also undergo a renovation under the proposal. The written portion of the test will be graded locally and would not be part of the score. In order for teachers to gauge students' improvement throughout the year, small "testlets" will be available. However, teachers are not required to use these "testlets."

"While we do need to test students, I don't think standardized tests are the best way to do it," Keith Potter, a social studies teacher said.

"These tests don't accurately reflect a student's strengths. Teachers don't like the rearranging of schedules, and many students don't take ISTEP+ seriously. It would be nice to have ISTEP+ in the spring, however, if there is a price tag attached, I personally don't think it is a good idea."

The Editorial Board feels that the measure to move ISTEP+, while a good idea, is not properly defined. Before voting in affirmation of a bill, a defined price tag should be attached. If there are "testlets" that are given to teachers, then there must be a cost involved.

In addition, standardized tests don't show the individual talents of students. Furthermore, most students who do not perform well during ISTEP+ don't take remedial classes seriously.

At first, taking ISTEP+ during the spring seems like a logical idea. Upon further analysis however, taking ISTEP+ during the beginning of the school year may allow for students to refresh their minds over material learned the previous year.

This does not apply to students who perform at a higher caliber in academics. These students have to be tested over material that they learned in middle school.

"It's wasting valuable time in my opinion," Potter said. "It's interesting that the superintendent would come out against the measure while the GOP representatives voted for the bill " Potter said. "That tells you something."

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Dear Editor:

I would like to use your paper as a medium to connect with the senior class of our great school. On Tuesday, February 7, 2006, I was faced with a choice, and I chose the route to better the situation of our school, and its governing by our Student Government.

For two years I have sat in this esteemed assembly, and done much to help our school. I was under the impression that the representative body was to be a connection between the student body and the administration. I learned, however, that specific goal is impossible.

To quote Richard Nixon, "I have never been a quitter." One of my best friends will always tell me that no one likes a quitter, and I agree with him. I'm not quitting. I am simply trying to put my seat in the hands of someone who may better use it.

I ask students to take note of serious issues straining upon the organization:

1) This past year Student Government was changed in order to re-organize committees under the direction of executive board members. This system is ineffective and needs to be set back to the system used in previous years.

2.) The votes of the students need to be given back to the students. The electoral college system to select the executive board members needs to be removed. This system is unnecessary and is just one more way to remove the rights of our students.

3.) A general call must be made by all students to push our Student Government to reduce the number of representatives within it. Forty-five is too many people for the work that can be done by half that. The only reason our Student Government catches the bad reputation that it does is because of the excess members with nothing to do.

For these above reasons and more, I resign my position of the Vice President of our Senior Class.

I hope that my successor will understand what I'm doing, and understand what he/she must do upon taking office. I ask especially that my successor take note of the above three grievances, and work his/her hardest to fix these problems.

I would like to point out to each person reading this letter that I refer to Student Government as "our" Student Government, because wether we understand it or not, it is ours, and we should use it for more, and demand more from it. I, personally, couldn't meet my own demands of our government, so I found myself unable to preform my duties, and as a result, turn my seat over to someone who could better use it to help our school.

Sincerely yours,

Ian McCormick

A lesson from South Park: 'Drugs are bad, mmkay'

By Austin Hetrick
Copy Editor

Ever watch South Park? Mr. Mackey, the principal of Southpark Elementary is one of my favorite characters. One of his best quotes of is: "Drugs are bad, mmkay?" Another goes like this:

Mr. Mackey: Uh, Marijuana's bad.

Street Guy: What?

Mr. Mackey: Marijuana makes you feel depressed and low.

Street Guy: And you don't feel that way now?

Mr. Mackey: Hmm, good point.

"Drugs are bad, mmkay?" perfectly sums up politically-correct America's stance on drugs. But is that statement good enough? Can a blank generalization (created by Comedy Central writers) actually sum up the stance of high schools everywhere?

I think it can, and I think it sums up a few more things. For example: "Sex is bad, mmkay?" "Alcohol is bad, mmkay?" "Don't drink and drive, mmkay?"

These may not be verbatim for what we've been taught through the years, but I think it covers the point educators were trying to make.

But I wonder why that point doesn't seem to work. Why do so many popular, intelligent, cool kids still smoke marijuana, drink alcohol or drive after a few shots of tequila? Wasn't: "Drugs are bad, mmkay?" a direct-enough message?

Often times "choice education" comes in drastic forms. A few weeks back I settled in with the rest of the junior class to watch the "Save A Life Tour" video, and then listened as a young man told his story. Then a chosen few of my class got to sit in a state-of-the-art simulator and drive drunk (with 500 back seat drivers 20 yards away…no pressure).

After that dramatic performance you may wonder, what grand message did I walk away with? Take a wild guess: "Don't drink and drive, mmkay?"

There is a very simple problem with a program that can be summed up that easily: it's too simple. Kids use drugs and alcohol for so many reasons, it's impossible just to say: No! and expect us all to put down the pot and vodka tonics like obedient second graders.

Students are drinking because they want to be like their friends, or because they think being trashed beyond belief is a cool thing. Maybe they like to live on the edge or reject their parents and convention, and this is the easiest way they can find: And maybe some of us are so screwed up that drugs or the bottle seem like a comfort, a companion to the fears about the world, family, and growing up.

So what can Homestead and other high schools do to stop underage drinking, drug use and sex? In my opinion, have a bit of understanding. Instead of repeating the same messages over and over again, (often accompanied by "COPS" music and gruesome images) try asking a high schooler why he drinks.

Try talking to the pot-head, or the drunk-driver and ask him what the real problem is, what would make the difference to him. And more than that, offer help to those willing to take it (with counseling about the issues rather than the crime, about the cause rather than the danger): instead of punishing, talk to a kid-and for once, listen.

Mr. Mackey had it right in the end: drugs are bad. So is teenage sex and drinking. But instead of a urine test and the appropriate punishment, instead of an arrest and a quick call to the parents, why don't we try to find the real problem, and help the student through it. mmkay?

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Profanity may appear in *The Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to *The Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the advisor in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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A riot of my own

Brokeback: Honest love, not a force-fed message

By Jim Katz
Writer

Tristan and Isolde. Romeo and Juliet. Jack and Ennis.

Between what has been deemed "controversial" themes and Oscar buzz, Ang Lee's latest film "Brokeback Mountain" has been garnering a great deal of the spotlight lately. It has been deemed by many "that gay cowboy movie." They see it as Hollywood's next scheme to force its views down America's throat. The truth is, "Brokeback Mountain" is far from a left-wing plot to start a revolution of acceptance. It's clear that those who made the film are at least tolerant of homosexuality, and the film reflects that view, but as much as people might want it to be a "message" film, where the focus is on bringing about change, the film is much more about love than any political views.

"Brokeback Mountain" is the story of Ennis Del Mar, played by Heath Ledger, and Jack Twist, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, beginning in the summer of 1963. They are two young cowboys living in Wyoming in an age where their rugged way of life is dying out. Both rather desperate for work, they meet, and are hired to work together herding sheep on and around Brokeback Mountain. Their relationship begins one night when they've each has a bit too much to drink and the next morning they break the awkward silence with:

Ennis: It's a one-shot thing we got goin' on here.

Jack: Ain't nobody's business but ours.

Ennis: You know I ain't queer.

Jack: Me neither.

The two of them leave at the end of the summer, both get married, and try to move on, yet they cannot. They see each other for the first time after four years, when they go on a 'fishing trip' together, They continue to have these meetings once or twice a year for twenty years. I won't ruin the ending for anyone who hasn't see it yet, but needless to say, if you're the crying type, be sure to bring a whole box.

But this isn't a movie review, because with all the hype around this 'gay cowboy' movie, it has become far more than a movie. It has become the punching bag for those who revel in exploiting things of beauty, simply to put themselves on a moral high ground.

Activists on both sides of the homosexuality issue have tried to use 'Brokeback Mountain' as evidence that they are in the right. Those opposed to homosexuality claim that the movie is sinful, just another product of an ultra-liberal Hollywood. Those fighting for homosexual rights claim that the movie is a wake-up call to those who don't believe homosexuality is moral.

The debate is sheer exploitation. It's just disgusting.

"Brokeback Mountain" is the story of how two people who fall in love, for reasons they don't understand, in a time and place where their love cannot be accepted; at once both beautiful and tragic at the same time. When Ennis and Jack are together, every word that is spoken, or quite often, left unspoken, is poetry. Every glance holds that glow of a morning sunrise over the Rockies, and every touch sends a delicate fire tearing through your veins.

Yet there is nothing about "Brokeback Mountain" that is cleaned up or glamorized. There is no fairy godmother or happy ending. It is real life. And not in a "Survivor" or "Big Brother" way, I mean, take away the camera, what you see is what you get.

When it comes down to it, the reason this film may be so powerful is because in itself, there is no ironed-out message. It is a story from which many meanings may be drawn. This is love at its most heart-wrenching, acting at its finest, and film-making that is as honest as the story itself.

But is that enough to reach beyond all the stigma put on this movie, and place it among the great love stories? Yes.

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Sports

Pinning the competition

Coach Randy Pursley fuels wrestling team with his knowledge and experience and leads the team deeper in the state competition. page 5

Lacrosse attracts more interest as a relatively new club

By David Greco
Writer

Club sports are becoming some of the most popular activities among high school students in Indiana. Besides bowling and rugby, lacrosse is one of the top club sports at Homestead. Lacrosse is based on physically and mentally demanding ideals, requiring strength, stamina, and vigor.

Because of the athleticism needed in the sport, lacrosse is quickly becoming a popular among students in Homestead.

Many of the lacrosse players join up after learning about the sport through their friends.

"At first I got interested in lacrosse when I was younger," lacrosse player Jack Coleman (12) said. "But once my friends joined, I joined up right away."

Over the past year, many students have been signing up to play lacrosse. When they learn about the game and watch a few competitions, the students usually get drawn into the sport.

Originating from Native Americans, lacrosse is one of the oldest sports in the United States. It was used to strengthen warriors before battle since it is such a physical sport. Men's lacrosse is played by two teams of ten players who use different sized netted sticks to pass and catch a rubber ball; as soon as the rubber ball is in the team's possession, they aim at propelling it into the opponent's net.

"I play football during the fall. So, since lacrosse is such a rough contact sport, I quickly joined the team."

Matt Mikulecky (12)
Lacrosse Player

Players have positions similar to that of soccer which include attackmen, midfielders, defensemen, and goalies. The team is comprised of both Homestead and Canterbury students who work together to win against any opponent. The lacrosse home games were played at the Chapel last year, but will be played under lights at the Homestead Soccer Field this upcoming season. Lacrosse is closely related to Homestead athletics such as football, hockey, and soccer, therefore it has attracted even more students.

"I play football during the fall," Matt Mikulecky (12), one of the lacrosse team captains, said. "So, since lacrosse is such a rough contact sport, I quickly joined the team."

But though many students, (30-45,) have joined the lacrosse team, it is a relatively expensive sport to play. Since it is a club sport, each team member pays an initial $175 registration fee and must take part in a fund raiser to collect money for uniforms.

All of the participants must provide for their own personal equipment, which includes a helmet, shoulder pads, elbow pads, rib pads, arm pads, gloves, and sticks, which are different sizes for different position and include a shaft and plastic head. The average cost of all the equipment totals around $800, but many of the players are willing to shoulder the amount.

"Lacrosse is a fun and hard-hitting sport," player Anthony Burgett (12) said.

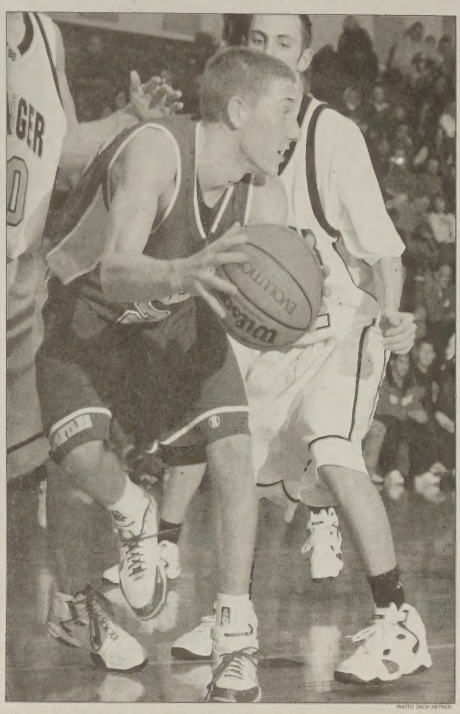
Despite last year's losing season of 4-9, this year's team members anticipate a successful season. Several seniors from last year's team are returning and are helping to lead the team to victory. The lacrosse team has been practicing for nearly two months at Tecumwah Sports and Recreation Center and got a new coach, Ryan Ludera, who used to teach lacrosse in the Chicago area.

"The team is going to come out this year and be really tough and aggressive," Burgett said. The lacrosse team plans on playing against Snider, Zanesville, Noblesville, Indianapolis teams, and Bishop Luers, their "biggest rival" according to several of the players.

POSTSEASON BOUND

Varsity boys basketball overcomes off-the-court distractions, prepares for a run at a sectional title in early postseason play

By Sam Van Horn
Writer



Grant Leiendecker (12) looks to pass the ball to a teammate during a game.

Despite on and off the court distractions, the boy's varsity basketball team has maintained an 11-4 record with just five games remaining in the regular season. The Spartans started their two game road trip at DeKalb on Jan. 27. Coming into this match-up they had just a .500 record in games that were played in the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC). With a win over the Barons, they've improved their record to 3-2 against conference opponents this season.

Their last game was Jan. 31 against Bishop Dwenger on the road. With a few players missing, due to off court misconduct, the Spartans were short handed headed into the match up.

"We didn't have all our players," Brandon Parker (12) said. "Fatigue was a big factor in the game."

With their second leading scorer not in the game, the basketball team leaned on the shoulder of their star player to carry the load. Scoring 26 points for the team, Grant Leiendecker (12) shot 8-14 from the field, including two three pointers. He proved to score more than half the team's points, however, in a losing effort. The Spartans fell short 60-46, their lowest scoring game of the season.

"We were all struggling from the field," Leiendecker said. "It was a physical game and we couldn't get into a rhythm."

Off the court distractions are something that has followed this team throughout the year. Despite losing two key players for some of the games this season, the basketball team feels that it won't hurt them as much as some people might think.

"We're pretty focused," Trevor Terrell (12) said. "They're our teammates and we obviously care about them, but I don't think it affected us mentally (on the court)."

This is a big chance for certain players to step up with important players sitting on the bench. Parker feels that it doesn't have to be done offensively, but that the Spartans can make up for it on the defensive end.

"I need to step up and play harder on defense," Parker said. "I don't necessarily need to shoot more, but just make up for it on the defensive end of the floor."

With only two consecutive home games remaining on the schedule, the Spartans will need to stay together as a team if they expect a run deep into the sectional tournament.

"We're getting a lot closer as a team," Leiendecker said. "That's what we need come sectional time."

Trevor Terrell (12) dribbles the ball past opposing team members during a varsity basketball game against Bishop Dwenger Highschool.

Vaulters Katie Veith and Hunter Hall make noise at national level

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-editor-in-chief

Three years ago, the notion that two Indiana high school athletes would have a shot at smashing pole vault records across the country seemed a little farfetched. However, Hunter Hall (11) and Katie Veith (11) have defied the odds, rising to the top of their respective sport and collecting numerous accolades along the way

From Jan. 26 to Jan. 29, the two participated in the National Pole Vault Summit, held in Reno, Nevada along with their club, the Fort Wayne Vault Club. Fort Wayne Vault Club consists of ten high school students from various Fort Wayne-area schools who compete together in various meets throughout the year. The team is led by Coach Shank, an 18-ft. pole-vaulter during his time at the University of Illinois. Other coaches include Jeff Martzall, Brian Kimball, and Randy Hall.

The National Pole Vault Summit is an annual event held at the Reno Hilton in which over 1,500 middle school, high school, and college vaulters participate in clinics held by Olympic athletes and coaches. They participate in a pole vaulting meet the final day of the conference.

Unlike most meets in which high-placing vaulters receive awards for their accomplishments, there are no awards given out at the National Pole Vault Summit.

"Reno is the first meet of the season where everyone gets to size one another up. It's made to see where you are in competition with other vaulters, not to give out awards. Everyone there just loves to vault," said Hall.

The meet itself begins at 7:45 A.M. and goes until 11:00 P.M. There are 11 pole vault pits in the hotel where the meet is held. Participants are placed in divisions based on age and skill level. There is an open division (reserved for high school students), a beginner division (for middle school students), and a division for college students. High school students are then grouped based on the individual's best career vault (the top jumpers compete against other top jumpers.)

Hall and Veith felt that they had both delivered spectacular performances and both place d near or at the top of their divisions.

Hall's 15-ft. six-inch vault was the second highest vault among high schoolers. However, because he cleared the height on his third attempt, his final ranking was eleventh overall. Hall seemed pleased with his performance in Reno.

"This was one of the deepest years as far as talent goes, so I feel I did very well," said Hall, who plans on attending a Division I school in two years.

Hall's jump in Reno was not, however, his personal best. Last summer, Hall jumped sixteen-feet-six-inches at an indoor meet in New Haven. As of now, that jump is the sixth best among current high school students, and trails just one other junior in the nation. That jump is also an Indiana Sophomore class record.

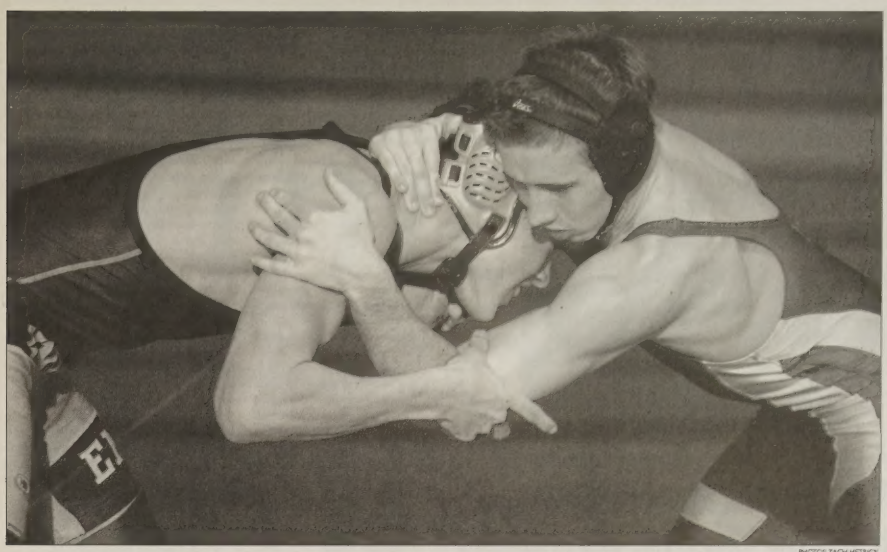
Hall's goals for this season are that he could jump seventeen feet by the time indoor season comes to an end. By the time track season comes a close in early June, Hall is striving to jump seventeen-feet-six-inches. His goal for the summer is just to consistently be jumping 17-ft., so that he can position himself to make a run at the national high school men's pole vaulting record, which stands at 18-ft. three-in. The record has been held since 2003 by Tommy Skipper of Sandy Oregon, Texas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUNTER HALL

Katie Veith (11) jumps during the Billy Invitational. Veith is within striking distance of the high school women's pole vault record.

Veith continued her quest for the national high school women's pole vaulting record, getting to within three inches of the mark with her fourteen foot vault in Reno. The jump easily won the meet, with the second place girl jumping just twelve-feet-ten-inches. Her accolades continue to grow. She is the first Indiana high schooler ever

see Vault, on page 5



PHOTOS ZACH HEITRICH

Derek Hackl (12) attempts to grab hold of his opponent during a match at home against East Noble. Hackl placed second at the NHC meet.

Post season performance upsets wrestlers

Young talent gains valuable experience for next season

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The varsity wrestling season is coming to a close, with several members of the team advancing individually in the state tournament. After a successful regular season, the team disappointed with their showings at the Northeast Hoosier Conference (NHC) and sectional tournaments.

At the NHC Tournament, the guys came in with high expectations. It had been one of all of their goals throughout the season to compete at conference. However, the Spartans ended up in sixth place. The team was led by Justin Wight (10), who won the 103 pound division. Shane Ruckel (10) got second in the 135 pound division. Derek Hackl (12) got second in the 130 pound division.

"Conference did not go that well," Patrick Nagel (11) said. "We had some individuals that really stepped it up, but on the whole we wrestled poorly and not up to what we could have. We lost to kids we beat earlier in the season: kind of disappointing."

The next meet for the Spartans was the sectional tournament on January 28, at New Haven. Once again, the guys did not wrestle to their full potential. They finished in third place, barely missing a spot at regionals. New Haven was first, followed by Snider. Hackl and Andrew Fahlsing (10) both were sectional champions. Ruckel also was a runner-up.

"More people did well than at conference, but there were some major disappointments," Nagel said. "Bill Bostain (11) and I had 23-11 records are now done for the season, so some upsets." Although they did not advance as a team, several guys did advance individually. Grant Laird (11), Wight, Fahlsing, Kyle Carlson (11), Ruckel, Shane Nelson (11), Hackl, and Deryck Jefferies (12) will be representing the Spartans for the rest of the state tournament.

One important part of the team's success this year was due to their coach, Randy Pursely. Pursely has a lot of wrestling experience and poured it into his team to get the best results out of them.

"They would tell us how we did on each round and what we needed to do to improve," said Nagel. "At least for me they would tell me to open up more and wrestle my match, to take it to my opponent."

Although the guys did not advance as a team, they still felt they had a successful year overall. They would have liked to perform better in several important dual meets during the season, but will settle for how the season turned out. One of the season highlights was a midseason match against rival Snider. It all came down to the final match of the day, with Nagel lifting the Spartans to victory. Another highlight came at the Greenwood Invitational. Once again, the tournament came down to the last match of the day. The Spartans were able to pull out a win and won the tournament.

The team feels that they have gained valuable experience, especially with several younger wrestlers, and is looking forward to improving even more next year. Look out for the Spartans to be an area power next winter.

Shane Ruckel (10) maneuvers around his competition to escape a hold. Ruckel placed second in the 135 pound division at the NHC meet.

Seniors look to lead young track and field team members

By Laura Summers
Writer

For the past month, the boys track and field team has been preparing for the start of an exciting new season, with intense practices and conditioning.

To be a great sports team of any kind, a group must be full of determination to succeed. Sometimes this drive comes from recent failures and the desire to improve.

However, the varsity boys' track and field team is looking to maintain its past success. Last year, the boys managed to tie for the conference championship. With sprinters like Kenneth Perkins (12) and distance runners like Ben Townsend (12), it was no surprise that this team was able to take the title.

The overwhelming consensus of the team is obviously to win the championship for a second straight year. This time, however, they are hoping to win it alone.

Evan Niner (12) is definitely looking forward to his final year on the track team.

"While the team collectively has no specific goals as of yet, everyone is looking to win conference again. We all have our own individual goals for this year; personally, I'm just hoping to improve from last year and progressively get better throughout this season," Niner said.

Niner is a distance runner; he usually participates in the mile and two mile runs.

Although the team lost a couple sprinters and distance runners, there still is a great amount of talent on this track team. The seniors are hoping to end their high school careers on top.

The members of the field team have equally high hopes for this season. With weight training and other conditioning, the boys have been building up for their first indoor meet, scheduled to take place on February 18 at Anderson University.

Jon Kopecky (12), senior and star shot put and discus thrower, has a positive outlook for this season.

"I am really excited for my senior season. My personal goals for this year include placing at the NSR State Indoor Finals, winning the NHC Conference in both shot put and discus, and placing at the IHSAA State Track and Field meet," Kopecky said. Last year, Kopecky placed seventh in the shot put at conference.

Interestingly, at these indoor meets, the discus is not thrown. The throwers will only have the opportunity to participate in the shot put event.

Other indoor meets will be held at Huntington North High School and Huntington University, all leading up to the NSR Indoor State Finals, which will end the indoor season in mid-March.

The outdoor season will begin quickly thereafter, with the first meet being held on March 22 against Elmhurst.

Anyone interested in discovering what exactly an indoor track meet is like is encouraged to come out and support the boys on February 18.

Hockey team looks for redemption

By Tim Clark
Writer

A shocking loss put a bitter-sweet end to the 2004-2005 Homestead Spartans Hockey Club campaign. With the Spartans up 2-1 heading into the final fifteen minutes of play, the Carroll Chargers scored five unanswered goals to win last year's City Championship in front of hundreds of stunned fans.

Before that game, Homestead was winners of 10 straight league games thanks to a turnaround of the program by Coach Ron Bulloch. He replaced the former coach, Robbie Starkey, after his resignation stemming from a controversy dealing with a brawl against North Side. Homestead however used the momentum of a new coach, with a new system, to propel them within one period of the city championship.

> *"We are not extremely talented so we all have to play together. We can't play just for ourselves because we won't be very successful."*
>
> Phil Gibson (12)
> Team Captain

This season, however, has had its share of ups and downs. With the loss of some skilled players like Cort Bulloch (who plays Junior-A hockey in Saskatchewan) and Austin Hans, who played in prior years, Homestead has had to rebuild with some new faces.

"We've just had our good and bad games," Captain Phil Gibson (12) said. "We're a lot younger this year."

Homestead has been on a roller-coaster season, starting off red-hot, winning four of their first five games. After that, the Spartans were only 1-3-1 in their next five. The Spartans then rebounded with a big 6-3 victory over second-place Carroll, which sparked another streak of four wins in five games. The Spartans, however, have lost their last two games by a combined score of 14-3.

"(Coach Bulloch) is probably disappointed because he's not used to losing like we are this year," Gibson said.

Despite the ups and downs, Homestead has had some shinning moments this season. The team has scored some big wins this year, including two against second place Carroll. While they have yet to beat undefeated Snider, the team has shown admirable courage in losing 4-3, 5-4, and 5-4 in the first three games of the season against Snider.

"We've definitely had a lot of really strong points in our season but it has kind of come back to normal," Linden Kelly (10) said. "We all have to come to play."

One of Homestead's more shinning stars is first-year goaltender Peter Saya. Peter was picked up over the summer and has back-stopped Homestead to six of its nine wins. Peter boasts a 6-5-1 league record with a .885 save percentage, which ranks him fourth in the league. Saya also has one shutout; a 6-0 whitewash of the Northrop Bruins back on January 18. Mike Donnell is in his second season with the club and done a stupendous job as well, helping to backstop Homestead to three wins this season.

"For a sophomore Pete is really good," Gibson said. "Pete and Mike are both really good goalies this year. They've split time and they're both really good."

While only two games remain on the league schedule, one thing is for sure: The team wants to win out and gain momentum going into the playoffs. The Spartans will start the city playoffs on Wednesday, March 1st, against the league-worst New Haven Bulldogs (1-15-0). The city playoffs are completely separate from the state competition and state will take place on March 4th and 5th, with the state finals being held on March 11th.

As the captain, Phil Gibson believes it's important that the team works together and wins their next three games in the league in able to achieve the teams goals of potential glory in the city playoffs and state championships.

"We are not extremely talented so we all have to play together," Gibson said. "We can't play just for ourselves because we won't be very successful."

PHOTO COURTESY OF HUNTER HALL

Hunter Hall (11) clears the bar at his pole vaulting competition.

Vault, continued from page 4

to jump fourteen feet. She now owns the women's record for best jump by a high school junior. And she is now in the record books as being the second best high school pole vaulter ever indoors. With just three more inches, Veith will surpass Mary Saxer's national record jump of fourteen-feet-three-inches. Saxer is now a freshman at Notre Dame, but accomplished the jump while living in New York. Veith explained the rise to stardom was immediate.

"While I was at the autograph table, people were asking me for autographs. For an hour after my jump I couldn't move more than two feet without being interviewed. Everyone was telling me what I needed to do next. It was insane," Veith said.

Veith and Hall estimated that they have received letters from over 75 different universities from across the nation. However, because of NCAA and IHSAA regulations forbidding recruitment of juniors, all the letters can do is wish the athlete luck on their upcoming season and congratulate them on past accomplishments.

"I get a letter from UCLA every week. There are just so many of them all the time," said Veith.

At the National Pole Vault Summit, college coaches who are there with their teams often take time off to check out the talent in the high school group. They are also forbidden to recruit juniors like Hall and Veith. They are allowed to introduce themselves and tell the person what school they are representing.

With indoor season approaching quickly, Veith and Hall have high expectations for this season, as both begin their quest for high school records.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Katelyn McMillen (11) goes up for a tough jump-shot during a recent Spartan home game against Elmhurst.

Girls basketball wins first sectional game, moves on to the second round

By Destany Maddox
Writer

"Our record didn't show how much our team has grown," Caroline Rondot (10), member of the basketball team, said.

Despite a losing record, the girls basketball team has grown both on and off the court.

"I think we had more fun this year while still working hard, more than last year," Rondot said.

Starting off the season with five losses and only three wins, the Lady Spartans' outcome seemed contrary to high pre-season hopes.

"The best part of the season for me was the beginning. Everyone was having fun and were ready to work with the right attitude. Things since then have kind of declined," said Katelyn McMillin (11).

A bright spot came during the December 17 match against Carroll where the team won their first game over Carroll in five years.

"Beating Carroll was amazing! All three teams: freshman, J.V., and Varsity won!" Rondot said.

Following the success against Carroll was another victory at Angola before losses began to, again, pile up. Aside from a considerable win over Snider, the Lady Spartans suffered losses in every match between December 30 and January 28. However, despite the losses, the ladies broke their losing streak by winning back-to-back games against Northrop and Leo.

On February 3, Senior Night resulted in the above win against Leo and a prominent display of the team's growth thus far. The seniors were honored through a parent escort to mid-court. They were presented with gifts from the underclassman and they shared their accomplishments and plans for the future.

As for the future generations of Varsity Lady Spartans, the outlook seems great considering the strong class of upper-classmen returning.

"Homestead has plenty to build around for 2006-2007," said local sports publication, "Game Night."

"Next year rests with Stephanie Mitchell (11) and Katelyn McMillin, teammates since middle school. As seniors, [Mitchell] and McMillen should lead the team to a winning record," Rondot said.

Alex Kruse one of six seniors leading the resurgence of the varsity dance team

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

As one of the six seniors this year on the varsity dance team, Alex Kruse(12) has confirmed the theory "practice makes perfect." All of her practice and competitions have really paid off and she is now considered one of the best dancers in the state.

Kruse has been dancing for 15 years, in and out of local and national competitions, and continues to lead the dance team to yet another successful season. The team again has aspirations for going to the national finals in March.

As the end of her last season as a varsity dancer, Kruse is now practicing and preparing herself for the life of dance beyond high school.

"I am going to continue dancing after high school, and I'm considering the possibility of dancing professionally," Kruse said. "I have applied to various schools, including Indiana University, where I plan on trying out for the poms team."

Kruse, dancing and practicing between 19 and 22 hours a week, is very anxious for state, nationals, and also the Homestead Invitaional, which is in a couple of weeks.

The most recent competition that the girls participated in was against Lake Central, one of their toughest competitors. Still holding onto an undefeated season, they placed first in jazz and first in lyrical. Jenna Wise (10), Kruse, and Kelly Childs (12) also collected numerous individual accolades.

"I am looking forward to the Homestead Invitational, which is also senior night for us. We have a very strong team this year and hope to be both lyrical and jazz state champions this year," Kruse said. "I am also looking forward to nationals, which is in Orlando, Florida, this year from March 16-20."

Throughout the any years of Kruse's dance career, she has learned and become accustomed to many different styles of dancing, including jazz, tap, lyrical, ballet, modern, and hip-hop.

With her many talents, she auditioned for Tiffany and Company Studio of dance, and made it to the master company, which is the highest of them all. In order to make company, Kruse had to audition over the summer.

In this club, Kruse has been able to compete with the studio and has participated in competitions in places such as New York and Florida.

"I am in the master company with nine other girls, including Kelly Childs and Jenna Wise ," Kruse said.

While dancing for the Homestead dance team, Kruse has accomplished many goals and won many different awards.

One of her first awards was the Junior Solo Champion, which she won freshman year, three-time small ensemble state champion with Katie Johnston (05), and she was a Dance Olympics V.I.P. scholarship winner. She has claimed numerous other awards as well.

"In the past years, I have also taken dance intensives at Broadway Dance Center in New York City," Kruse said.

PHOTO KARA WALL

Alex Kruse (12) dances at a recent competition. Kruse has been one of several senior leaders this season.

Charlie Weis boasts a strong first-season recruiting class

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-Editor-in-Chief

A year ago, the future of Notre Dame football looked bleak. The Irish were coming off a disappointing 6-6 campaign and the first coach firing in school history. The team had an unproven quarterback in Brady Quinn, a first-year head coach, and a brutal 2005 schedule.

But things quickly changed when Charlie Weis took over the reigns of the team. The team won its first two games on the road against ranked opponents by a combined score of 59-31. They finished with a 9-3 record and a berth in the Fiesta Bowl.

It took just a year for the Irish to reach its normally perennial spot near the top of college football. All that was left for Charlie Weis to prove was that he could recruit. Boy, did he deliver.

Not only did the first-year Notre Dame coach lead the Irish from obscurity back to national notoriety, he has now secured the near future of the program with an outstanding recruiting class.

Notre Dame's recruiting class ranks in the top five in most expert polls, and it looks like the Irish have enough young talent to carry them through several more successful years.

A year ago, Weis signed just 15 students to the team, mainly because he did not want to throw in recruits that did not fit his system. Instead, he studied his team for a year to get a better perspective on where the holes were in roster. Therefore, this year he had plenty of roster space to fill, and signed a hefty 28 recruits. Each of the 28 recruits had offers from other elite programs and fit into Weis' system.

> *"Who knows what this Notre Dame team could have done last season had they made just a few more defensive stops. If Walls and McNeil live up to the hype, it is almost scary what this Notre Dame team could potentially do next season."*
>
> Dillon Kimmel
> Co-Editor-in-Chief

Due to poor recruiting over the last couple of years, the Irish have lacked depth at several key positions, mainly along the offensive line. Weis responded by signing six highly-toured offensive linemen, Sam Young, Matt Carufel, Chris Stewart, Eric Olson, Bartley Webb, and Daniel Wenger. All of the above names were on various top 100 lists and were highly sought-after prospects.

In the Fiesta Bowl, the Irish learned the hard way what a good passing team can do to an inexperienced and soft secondary. Ohio State tore the Irish secondary apart en route to a 34-20 win.

The Irish signed two lock-down corners in Raeshon McNeil and Darrin Walls, both highly recruited and considered among the best defensive players in the country. I believe the recruitment of Walls and McNeil are the two biggest pickups for the Irish this off-season.

In Notre Dame's three losses, each could have been avoided had the secondary been able to come up with a couple big plays. The defense was obviously tired at the end of games and the fatigue cost the Irish a national championship appearance. What if the Irish had a shut-down corner to stop Matt Leinart's back-breaking fourth and nine pass? Or if they had someone who could stop Michigan State quarterback Drew Stanton from picking apart the Irish for 325 yards in a 44-41 overtime loss?

The secondary ranked a dismal 103rd in the country, giving up an average of 264 yards through the air each game. Who knows what this Notre Dame team could have done last season had they made just a few more defensive stops. If Walls and McNeil live up to the hype, it is almost scary what this Notre Dame team could potentially do next season.

Notre Dame also added a trio of outstanding running backs. James Aldridge, Munir Price, and Luke Schmidt all have breakaway speed, and provide a boost for a Notre Dame rushing attack that struggled at times last year.

Schmidt is by far the best fullback recruit in the country, coming off back-to-back 2,000 yard seasons in his junior and senior seasons.

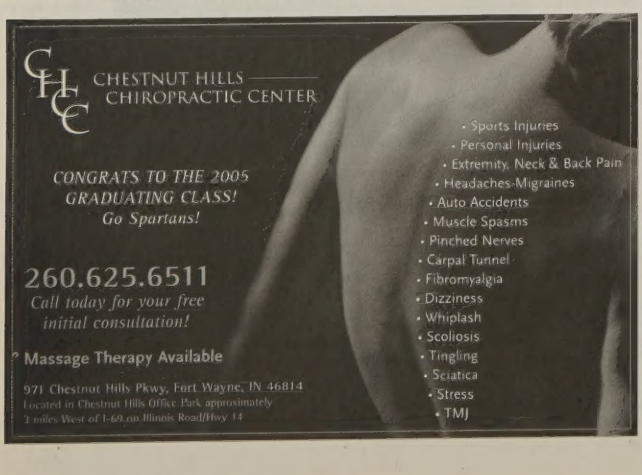
And who can forget the two quarterbacks, Demetrius Jones and Zach Fraser? Fraser is predominantly a traditional drop-back passer, much like Brady Quinn. Jones provides back-breaking speed, as well as a cannon for an arm.

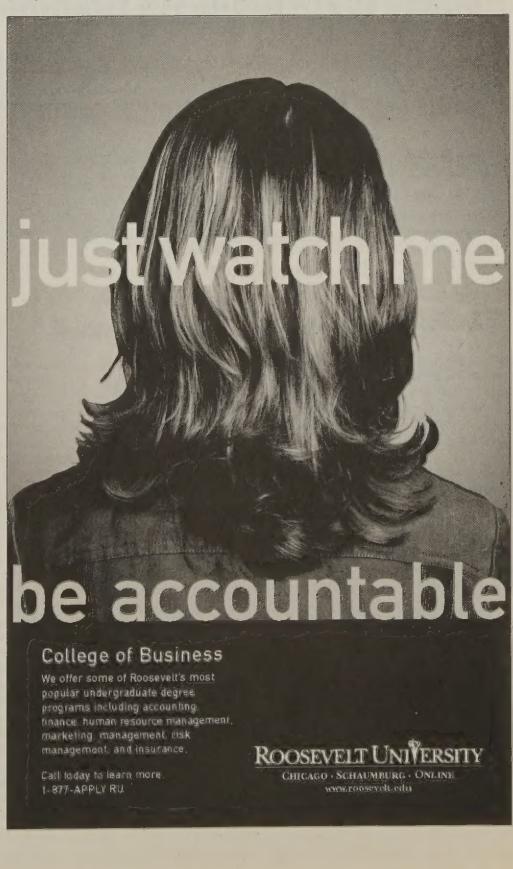
Notre Dame also boasts the number one tight end prospect in the country, Konrad Reuland. Notre Dame narrowly beat out USC for this highly sough-after recruit. Notre Dame and USC also battled for a half dozen of the most talented and versatile group of receivers. The Irish won Richard Jackson, Barry Gallup, Robby Parris, and George West, leaving the hated Trojans with holes to fill at the receiver position.

Despite missing out on several high-profile defensive players, the Irish hit it out of the ballpark with their fabulous class. They do have some work to do along the defensive line, but they should be in pretty good shape for next year.

Weis has already hosted a junior day for possible recruits for 2007. This early recruitment should pay dividends in gaining another strong class next year. And with Notre Dame sure to maintin its place among the top programs in the country, recruiting should come even easier next year than this.

Consider this a warmup to what Weis is capable of. The fact that, in his first year at a school with astronomically high expectations, he has been able to resurrect the program from the dead and deliver an exceptional recruiting class shows just how special a coach the Notre Dame faithful have themselves.

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reaction time

Swim & dive team captures sectional title, again; team members react to record breaking performances

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

Above: Coach Chad Englehart and his son, Will, watch the team captains Dani Johnson (12), Kelly Johnson (12), and Jessica Hennick (12) hold up the IHSAA sectional trophy. The girls won 11 out of the 12 events, earning a total of 256 points. Below: Dani Johnson (12) touches the wall after completing her 50 butterfly, allowing Emily Haifley (10) to sprint the final 50 of the 200 medley relay. Heather Moore (11) and Kristen Witham (10) were also on the relay and helped set the school record, 1:49.02. K. Johnson broke three schools records, the 50 free, the 200 free relay, and the 100 free.

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

By Tim Clark
Writer

Right now the waters inside the Indiana University Natatorium are still. Less than 24 hours from now, those waters will be raging like the Wabash river as Indiana's finest swimmers and divers take to that liquid playing field in a quest for glory. The swim and dive team hopes that the hard work displayed this season will pay off in gold at tomorrow's swim and dive state championships.

The boys team has been ranked second for quite some time now and the girls have hovered around the top five as of late. The boys team has the best shot at a state title as they have shown all year that they can compete with most anyone in the state. North Central has been leading in the state polls for awhile now, but the thought of an upset isn't out of the question.

A first place finish would not be out of the question for the girls team either. With strong performances in recent meets by many swimmers (notably Jessica Skiba (11), Kelly Johnson (12)).

The girls team, however, has more of a challenge as Carmel and North Central (Indianapolis) are the immediate favorites to win the state title.

Entertaining the idea of a state championship has swimmer Kelly Johnson (12) overwhelmed.

"It would be amazing," Johnson said. "The top three teams get trophies. Our coach says that he's got a rough estimate and guesses we're going to place. (Coach Englehart) thinks we're going to get third or better. It would be incredible if we got first so I think that third would be just as good for us."

Their work ethic could work to their advantage as well. The girls have shown all year long that they are determined and hard working. From the freshmen all the way up to the seniors, this team has had one mission: to work hard and have fun

"The girls on our team were very driven," Johnson said. "We love to race. I think state will be more competitive for us because we didn't get to race team like Carmel, Snider, and our rivals. I think we really stood up to the challenge (in sectionals) and did what we needed to do."

With the line-up of talent that Homestead posses it is easy to see the smiles on the faces of everyone involved, from the managers, to the coaches, to the swimmers and divers themselves. The team, overall, has accomplished much this year and the swimmers and divers are proud of what they've achieved this winter. The girls team will compete next on Saturday at state.

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

Far Left: Jessica Skiba (11) hugs Amy Gutwein (10) after swimming the 500 free during finals. Gutwein dropped 29.46 from her prelim time to her final time. Skiba won the event with 4:58.05, giving her the number one seeded time for state. Left: Jorie Kosmala (9) listens to her iPod to help her focus for her event, the 100 breaststroke. Many of the swimmers prepare for their race by listening to their favorite songs. Below: Sam Nolting (12) performs her last dive at sectionals, a back one-and-one-half somersault half twist. She placed first at sectionals with a score total of 421.40. Nolting also placed seventh with 383.95 points at regionals on Tuesday. Nolting will face several ranked Indianapolis teams.

out with the old & in with the new

Five school records have been broken this year

200 IM
2:06.16
Jessica Skiba

50 Free
23.85
Kelly Johnson

100 Free
52.57
Kelly Johnson

200 Medley Relay
1:49.02
Heather Moore, Kristen Witham, Dani Johnson, & Emily Haifley

200 Free Relay
1:37.78
Jessica Skiba, Jessica Hennick, Kristen Kinzer, & Kelly Johnson

PHOTO MARGARET DISTLER

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issue 8 volume 36
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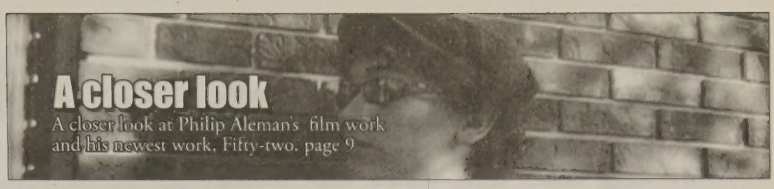
Life



A closer look

A closer look at Philip Aleman's film work and his newest work, Fifty-two. page 9

Valentine's Day: the 'Hallmark holiday'?

By Katie Corson
Writer

Amidst the pounds of chocolate and stacks of paper hearts made by elementary kids there lurks a serious question. Did Hallmark create Valentine's Day to boast their profits after the winter holiday rush, or is there really some basis to this seemingly consumer-driven day? With research from historychannel.com, the truth remains just about as murky.

During the third century, the Emperor of Rome, Claudius II, realized that single men made better soldiers than those who had wives and families. Therefore, Claudius decided the best solution would be to outlaw marriage for young men.

This new law was not well-received by many, including a priest by the name of Valentine. In defiance of Claudius, Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret, but of course his actions were discovered by Claudius who ordered Valentine be murdered.

The young couples that Valentine had married decided to honor him each year on the anniversary of his death, which they believed to be about the middle of February.

It's a cute story, but only one of the eleven listed, with each of the others also giving its own explanations of the origin of Valentine's Day. Regardless of whether or not the holiday has a true basis, students are still making plans for this year's February 14.

"I'm going to spend Valentine's Day with my boyfriend, but I don't know what we're doing because he told me it's a surprise," Whitney Johnson (12) said. "Before we started dating I usually spent Valentine's Day with my friends. We usually would just get together and exchange gifts."

Many students have found that, while most Valentine's Day surprises are planned with the best of intentions, things don't always go as smoothly as planned.

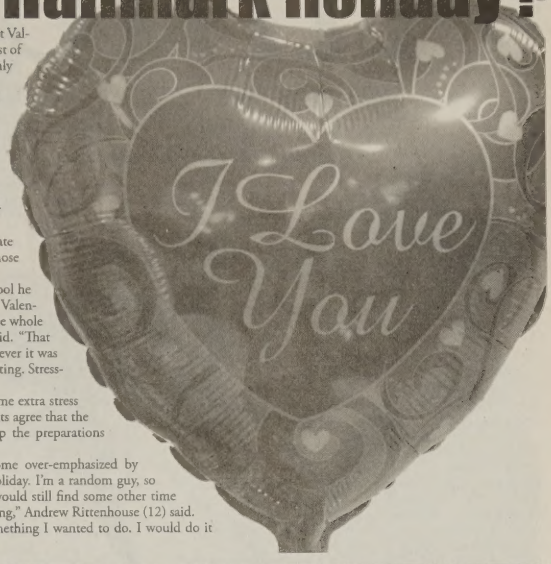
"One year I got a lot of gifts from a guy I didn't know very well. It was nice, but kind of awkward. He even got me a really huge teddy bear; seriously, this teddy bear seemed like it was the size of Texas," Hilary McBride (12) said. "Not all surprises are bad though. One year the guy I was dating took me horseback riding, then he made dinner for me. That was really sweet."

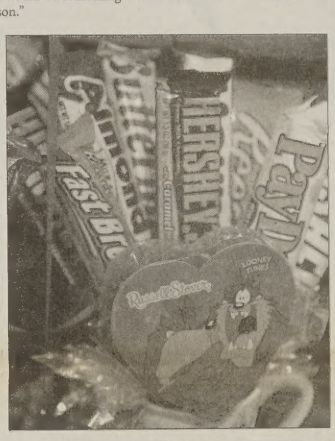
To many people, Valentine's Day is a date with that special someone, but there are those who somehow find themselves with plans.

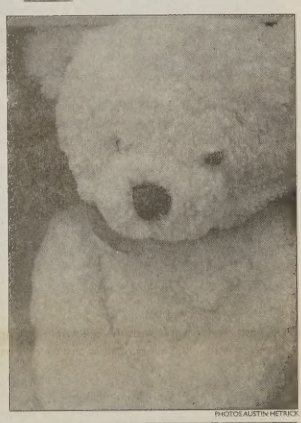
"When my older brother was in high school he would always make really elaborate plans for Valentine's Day, and it always seemed to involve the whole family, or at least me," Paul Gilbert (12) said. "That meant I ended up helping him pull off whatever it was he had come up with, so it was always interesting. Stressful, but interesting."

Making plans for the holiday can add some extra stress to an already busy lifestyle, but many students agree that the trick to enjoying Valentine's Day is to keep the preparations from feeling like a chore.

"I think that Valentine's Day has become over-emphasized by stores, but I still like the idea behind the holiday. I'm a random guy, so if there was no Valentine's Day I'm sure I would still find some other time and do something nice for the girl I was dating," Andrew Rittenhouse (12) said. "I would just do it because it would be something I wanted to do. I would do it because I cared about the person."







PHOTOS AUSTIN HETRICK

Online services offer ways for students to plagiarize

By Luke Chase
Writer

Five days in school suspension, a zero on the assignment and call in the parents. Plagiarism is a problem at any high school nowadays; with such ready access through the Internet to full research papers and book reports, the temptation can be unbearable.

There are ways for a student to obtain an assignment that have been prompted by new technology. Websites such as cheathouse.com and antiessays.com advertise thousands of free college term papers and high school research papers on every topic imaginable. For a little cash anyone can get a paper of even better quality.

For every crime there is a deterrent. On top of the school's punishment, a minimum of a zero on the paper and parental contact, there is now the added deterrent of a program designed specially to check for plagiarized student papers.

Just like the websites providing the pirated papers the resources for teachers to confirm their suspicions about students are available for free, but with for a little green the unlimited promises of faster times and more comprehensive searches can be yours.

Teachers have blogs just like students and a simple Google search will provide tips and links for teachers to use to fight plagiarism. One such tip is to type or copy suspicious part of a paper into a search engine and scan the results.

Subscription-based websites to check for websites are usually more established and have a broader searching range. Some, such as turnitin.com provides a multitude of services. The site provides a grade book, access for students to peer review online and allows teachers to grade assignments online, all available for a single instructor, department, campus, or multiple campuses.

For those whose school system isn't currently flipping the bill for these programs there are many sources out there. Plagiarismchecker.com, a resource for teachers by a teacher, provides a free and easy alternative to the cost of some programs and the tedious process of others.

This engine is a transition; it uses a choice of Yahoo or Google to power your search but provides more versatility and ease. A test of this program turned up better results than using just Google alone.

A segment of a book review on Twelve Angry Men provided by one of the many online resources, turned up not only the site it was taken from but also a variety of others, all within the first listing. It was much more accurate than the method of copying the paper directly into a search engine although the 32 word limit still applies.

Homestead currently does not provide their teachers with a subscription program to check student's work for plagiarism but that doesn't stop teachers from wanting their students' work to be from their own mind and they can still use the free sites.

Bishop Luers High School has used turnitin.com, a subscription plagiarism site, in the past. The subscription was not renewed this year due to lack of teacher usage.

It isn't impossible for a student to unconsciously plagiarize. If the student has read their sources over thoroughly a phrase may get stuck in their head and come out on the paper.

To the knowledge of Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay Homestead has not deeply considered purchasing a license.

Dan Bowler (9) doesn't feel Homestead has a plagiarism problem and feels that students only plagiarize because they "run out of time for assignments." He also feels that there are issues more crucial to the operation of the school that need to be addressed before plagiarism.

BY THE NUMBERS

(based on the school's discipline listing)

46 students were sent to the discipline office for cheating, plagiarism, or forgery in the 2004-2005 school year

32% of those processed were seniors

20% of those processed were freshmen

0 on the assignment if student was caught

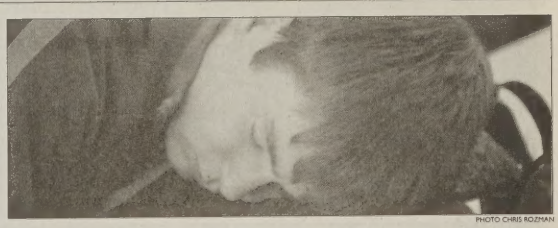


PHOTO CHRIS ROZMAN

Jack Coleman (12) displays one of the symptoms of senioritis by dozing off in one of his classes.

Seniors anxious to graduate

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

By the time senior year rolls around, most students are dreaming of graduation and upcoming college years. Their devotion to study often slips and time is mostly spent partying and working. Many students try to coast through their senior year and relax before they head off to college. This trend is commonly referred to as "senioritis."

"This myth of senioritis is real," Blake Barnhart (12) said. "Many of my friends have actually been diagnosed, and I think it's almost a senior class-wide epidemic. It's really hard to concentrate and take school seriously when I already know I am going to IU next year." Many seniors across the country feel this lack of motivation and it is becoming a national concern. Most seniors believe that colleges are not interested in the grades received the last year of high school. However, many educators believe that senioritis can cheat students out of their futures.

Although most students believe that colleges are not interested in academic success during the senior year, college admission boards show a great interest in this matter. The consequences of an unsuccessful senior year can result in colleges revoking scholarships and, in some cases, admissions.

"Senioritis has not affected me very much, but the system certainly doesn't give you much reason not to; Grade Point Average (GPA) and class rank lock in after the seventh semester," Andy Wirtner (12) said. The Department of Education was so concerned about this problem that it developed a commission to study senioritis. The commission reported that the high senior year is a lost opportunity for many students. Colleges have escalated this problem due to their procedure for early admissions. These early acceptances are mostly based on a three year high school transcript. It's hard for seniors to understand the need for continued academic vigor.

This senior slump seems to affect most students at some time throughout their high school years. "Senioritis affects many people at Homestead High School, but I feel the truly motivated students will not be lackadaisical in their studies," Emily Hart (12) said. Seniors should take this year seriously, but at the same time have fun!"

Experts feel that this is the key to a successful senior year. Continuing to be challenged and staying involved in extra-curricular activities helps most students achieve this success and remain focused throughout their senior year. This last year of high school offers students one last opportunity to prepare for college.

"I don't feel any senioritis at all," Tyler Freeland (12) said. "I am getting better grades this year than I have throughout all of high school. By the last nine weeks I will probably start slacking and being lazy."

Although this type of behavior is unusual, some students find it helpful if they are enrolled in classes they are interested in. Senioritis often occurs after seventh semester grades have been recorded. "It really hasn't affected me too much," Chris Reed (12) said. "But since colleges only want seventh semester grades at the latest, your relevant high school career ends after your first semester finals. It is, though, beginning to kick in more and more as this semester rolls on." Governors studying senioritis feel that the traditional 12 year graduation cycle may be outdated. They are pushing to make changes in the high school curriculum, so that graduation and entrance into universities can occur after only 11 1/2 years. 38 states are currently offering simultaneous high school and college credit, which is also known as dual enrollment, hoping to avoid a drop in senior apathy.

Many teachers recognize these symptoms which include reduced attention to studies, excuses for not attending classes, sleeping during class, and a fixation on partying. If you or anyone you has these symptoms, it could be the disease of senioritis. The only cure known for senioritis is graduation.

Students volunteer on their own

Schedules allow them to serve the community in multiple ways, many also join Key Club

By Erin Quinn
Writer

"Ultimately, we (as human beings) are not remembered for what was given to us or what we earned, but what we did for other people," Brad Zehr (11) said. "This is my main motivation for volunteering and the idea that drives my passion for volunteering."

Although many students become involved with voluntary community service projects with the intentions of bulking up their college applications, many gain valuable experience, learn important lessons, and enjoy themselves.

"My mom got me into it [volunteer work at Lutheran Hospital], with the typical 'it looks good on college transcripts,' motive," Erin Gould (10) said.

Local teenagers who volunteer at Lutheran Hospital help the staff and interact with patients in a variety of ways. Gould and Colleen O'Hara (10) both donate two hours of their time every Monday to help wheelchair-bound patients find their rooms or various other locations.

"It's fun, we have a good time with the older people that volunteer with us, and it isn't really that much time. I like doing it; you could even say I look forward to it," Gould said.

Julia Springer (11) and Alex Desch (12) are two of the many students who volunteer at Lutheran by spending time in the Pediatrics ward, playing with the children.

"I like to think it makes the kids' situations better. I hope they don't feel as bad when they have someone to play with," said Desch, who spends a few hours of each Saturday at the hospital. Zehr volunteered at Lutheran over the summer in the Heart Pavilion, the emergency department, the Pediatrics ward, and as a patient escort.

"The summer is always the easiest time to volunteer at the hospital because I could go in one day every week for about four hours," Zehr said. Springer and Zehr also collaborated with Amy Young (10) at the Rehabilitation Hospital, playing saxophone and piano for patients with mental or psychological diseases.

"The patients absolutely love young musicians. We went twice, once in November and again in December. I'm sure both times it was the highlight of their week," Zehr said.

Desch also teaches a first grade religious education class at her church every Monday night, and has spent time at the Franciscan center passing out sack lunches to kids who do not always have enough to eat.

"I got involved through the Key Club my freshman year, and before that I was required to do community service for my Confirmation class in eighth grade. Now I do it because it's fulfilling to help others."

"It's good to help the community out, to give back," Springer said.

Springer also helps out in the pediatric ward at Lutheran playing with the kids. Despite her busy schedule (Show Choir, Spanish Club, Key Club, school, and free time), Springer manages to log a few hours each week giving back to the community.

Springer has served food at the local Rescue Mission, spent time with cancer patients at "Camp What You Want To Do" during the summer, and volunteered at the Children's Hope House for parents with hospitalized children.

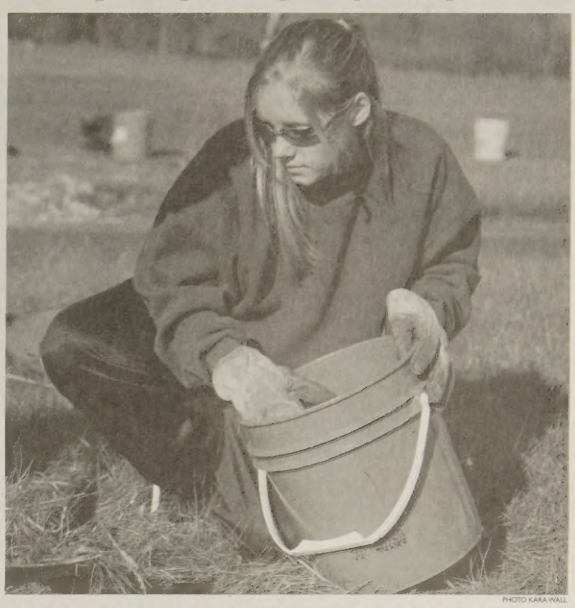
Hari Vasu (11) volunteered at the Veteran's Hospital (VA) over the summer, and spends a few hours tutoring elementary students at the Boys and Girls Club downtown with the Junior Classical League. He is also involved with Key Club events.

"Volunteering makes you feel good, you know that you're doing something to help another person out," Vasu said. "It can be a good learning experience, too. At the hospital I was exposed to the field of medicine, it was a good opportunity to gain insight into potential career paths."

"I think I was put here to not be selfish and to help others," Springer said. "I've learned to value things more through working with people who aren't as privileged as I am. I'm privileged enough to have things, I know I should help others."

Both Springer and Desch emphasized the ease in which other students can get involved.

"It's really only a few hours a week, more in the summer, if you want. If you're interested, all you have to do is attend a Key Club meeting," Springer said.



Erin Wilson (12) volunteers at Indian Trails Park to help the community and to earn hours for Key Club.

PHOTO KARA WALL

"It is an opportunity to interact with others and to see things from a different perspective. I think it's a good idea for everyone to have some experience," Desch said.

"I definitely think students should volunteer," Vasu said. "Key Club is a great place to start if you don't really know where to go or how to begin. Or, if you have an idea of a place or a specific thing you want to focus on, you could go straight there."

"[Volunteering] is the best way to give back," Zehr said. "If more people got involved in volunteering, our community would become stronger, closer, and happier."

Former coach Ron Brown will speak on behalf of FCA

By Megan Miller
Writer

As "God's assistant coach," Ron Brown has a full time job. Informing others of God and faith, Brown is a motivational speaker. He is the former football coach at Nebraska and is the author of the bestselling book, "Don't Flinch" and will speak to students and coaches at Homestead High School on Feb. 23.

Coach Brown works with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), an association for students of all ages who want to be a part of Christ.

"I'm in football because God wanted me there," Brown said in an interview with Nebraska Public Television. "I'm in the state of Nebraska, quite frankly -- I don't know why I'm here, other than the fact that I must be here to bring honor and glory to God with the vehicle of football."

Born in New York City, Ron was adopted by a couple from Massachusetts.

"That's something that has been with me my whole life, something that I think about every day, and helps give me a fire inside to want to reach out and extend God's love to as many as I possible can touch along the way."

He then took his athletic and academic talents to Brown University. He dreamt of having a coaching position for years. But as time passed and when eventually the opportunity came to him he realized that wasn't a great desire any longer. He instead wanted to focus on religion and athletics.

Coach Brown was once offered a coaching position in the NFL, but he came to the same conclusion he had before. Brown loved coaching at Nebraska and that feeling wasn't going to change. There were also many other reasons, one being that he would have been one of the youngest NFL coaches in the country.

FCA members feel that Ron Brown's informative, encouraging speech is something no one should miss. It will be held on Feb. 23, from 3:00-4:00 in the Community Room D.

"I think it is exciting that such a famous person is coming in to talk to students," Anna Menze (12) said.

"I think it's good for the students because speaking about Christ is coming from someone who is a football coach with a lot on his plate," Melissa Martin (12) said.

"I think it is really cool we have the opportunity to have someone who has the faith to stand up for what he believes," said Emily Nestel (12).

Like some students, Menze, Martin, and Nestel are a part of the "group" FCA which meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:15 in the Freshmen Academy.

"I love to inspire. I love to pull people up, you know, and then nail a hard hitting truth to them and find ways to light their fire, but at times you need to turn that off a little bit, you know, and you just need to put your arm around a guy and tell him you love him just the way he is, whether he improves or not. He's fine just the way he is."

RON BROWN INFORMATION

- Presentation held on February 23 from 3:00 to 4:00 in Community Room D
- Everyone is welcome to come
- Sponsor: FCA

FCA INFORMATION

-Began in 1954
- Largest Christian sports organization in America
-FCA groups are called Huddles
-Anyone can become a member of FCA (non athletes as well as those involved)

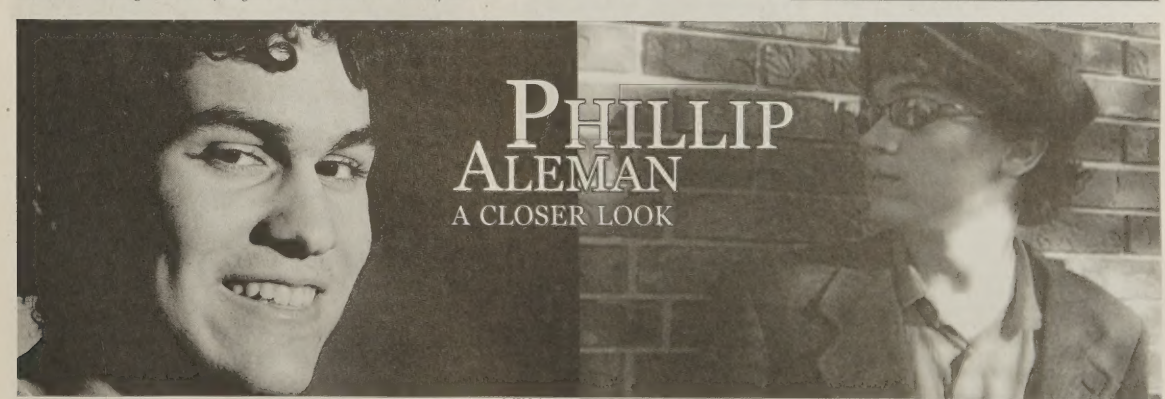


PHOTO ZACH METRICK

PHOTO COURTESY PHIL ALEMAN

By Will Kioultzopoulos
Intern Writer

"We are at war. We all know how it works, right? The opposing sides fight until one is dead, defeated, or both give up. Problem is, we don't have a clear-cut enemy anymore. There's no Hitler, Soviet Union, or...or Darth Vader here. They don't have a home to retreat to."

This is an excerpt from "Itasca," the 136-page full length movie script written by Phillip Aleman (11). Characterized by his large brown 'fro and off-the-wall energy levels, Aleman is a self-described game and movie aficionado. As one of the few teenage screenplay authors, his works have quickly become popular among his peers, and are beginning to gain the merit of becoming low-budget student films. He recently completed his first film, Fifty Two, with the help of friend and fellow film enthusiast, Chris Purdy (11). The video was entered into the video art category of Project Excel, anticipating a possible cash prize of up to $9,000.

"I guess I first got interested in writing in seventh grade," Aleman said. "There was a girl that I knew and would communicate [with] using E-Mail, and she was interested in writing, so I decided to give it a try." Aleman admitted that his drive to write fizzled once he reached high school.

"I was a bit of a bum most of freshman year," Aleman said. "Movies have always interested me, but not as a writing subject. But I remember seeing the Sin City trailer and thinking…'Wow… I need to start writing again.'"

When asked to list some of his biggest influences, Aleman mentioned Hideo Kojima (creator of the Metal Gear Solid video game series), screenplay writers Paddy Chayefsky (Network) and Charlie Kaufman (Adaptation), and film director David Fincher (SE7EN).

Aleman's writing achievements to date include the 136-page script to "Itasca," the short film scripts Fifty-Two and Prelude and A Gentleman's Agreement, a work in progress.

"I'm trying to keep everything as part of one large, expansive universe, so that when you read the stories and see the films, you can find all of the hidden relationships between the characters, and the lapses in time, and visit the same settings," Aleman said. "Fifty-Two is really unrelated to my overall project, but we still managed to fit a lot of meaning and symbolism into that eight-minute film."

One of Aleman's characters, Gabriel Ricerca in Prelude displays his talent best:

"There's a saying I once heard... That there's a fine line between investigation and persecution. But, I believe, that in persecution...you find truth. I....have found the truth. The truth about them. And now I must say, ignorance really is bliss."

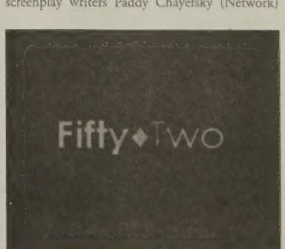


PHOTO COURTESY BY PHIL ALEMAN

The title shot of Aleman's first short film.

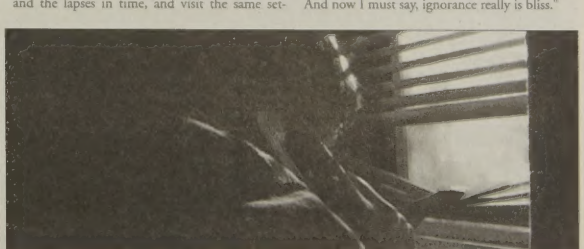


PHOTO COURTESY BY PHIL ALEMAN

A shot from Fifty-two, Aleman's new entry into Project Excel. The first prize piece will win $9,000.

Buffalo Wild Wings

The food review crew takes a walk on the wild side with review of 'Buffalo Wild Wings'

By Annie Baenen and Tyler Churchward
Life editor and associate life editor

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Alex White (12), Bryce Heckber (12), Ben Townsend (12), Nate Strothmann (12), and Blake Barnhart (12) eat at Buffalo Wild Wings.

Annie: New competition has arrived for the ever so popular Buffalo Wings and Ribs. Buffalo Wild Wings was built last year next to the dollar theatre at Coventry. The atmosphere is the best part about the new Wings. There are at least twenty big screen TV's on the walls around the room, and all on different channels. If you have something specific you want to watch, they will meet your request and change the channel of the TV right in front of you. There is a separate, glassed off room for the bar, with pool tables and even more big screen TV's. The only depressing element about the atmosphere was the sad, breakup music they were playing throughout the restaurant.

Tyler: Buffalo Wild Wings is a great place to hang out with friends any time you want a quick, relatively cheap meal. It's also a sports fan's heaven.

Annie: We started off with two appetizers: mini corn dogs and chicken quesadillas. A big complaint that I had was the excessive amount of time it took to get our food. It probably took around half an hour to get our appetizers, and our waitress brought them out with the rest of our meals. A half an hour doesn't sound like much, but the place wasn't busy and it was very quiet.

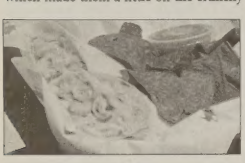
Tyler: I ordered the Buffalo Ranch Chicken Wrap, which is chicken, ranch, medium buffalo sauce, cheese, lettuce, and tomato. The wrap also comes with chips and salsa on the side. For just $6.99, this is a great tasting, filling meal. The mini corndogs are pretty good as well, but my personal favorite appetizer is boneless wings. I'd recommend medium sauce, spicy garlic, hot barbecue, or honey barbecue. If you're daring (or maybe just insane), try the Blazin' sauce.

Zach: I ordered the barbecue bacon burger. The meat patty was extremely small in comparison to the bun, but it was still really good. It came with all of the fix-ings including lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and pickles. I really liked the chicken quesadillas. They were loaded with chicken and cheese, and came with sour cream.

Annie: I ordered eight boneless wings, four of which were in a sweet barbecue sauce, and the other four were soaked in a medium sauce. The wings were a decent size and I thought they were really good. My only complaint was that they were too breaded which made them a little on the crunchy side. Also, you can call me a wuss, but the medium sauce was a little on the hot side for me. I loved the mini corndogs. They are my absolute favorite, and I get them every time I go. They are served with a sweet honey mustard sauce, which makes them so good.

Tyler: Personally, Buffalo Wild Wings is one of my favorite restaurants to eat at, and there is always something new to try on the menu if you aren't in the mood for their great wings. The service is usually very quick, and they even have carry out if you're on-the go.

Annie: All in all I would say it was a fun experience. The service was decent and I thought the food was really good. Our meal totaled around $30.00 including tax, tip, and drinks, which is very affordable for dinner for three.



BUFFALO WILD WINGS GRILL & BAR

BUFFALO WILD WINGS INFO

Hours: Monday-Thursday 11-1
Friday - Saturday: 11-2
Sunday: 11-12

Mini Corn Dogs $5.24

Chicken Quesadillas $6.41 (tax included)
$.50 legs Wednesday
Boneless Wings Thursday $.50
All other days 8 wings $6.20 (tax included)
Soft Drinks $1.92 free refills
Location: Coventry Rd.

The Fray debut with 'how to save a life'

By Tyler Churchward
Associate Life Editor

Ok, it's back to reviewing artists 99% of you have never even heard of. This issue's review is on a band called The Fray, who hail from Denver, Colorado. They got their record contract in a unique way; after forming in 2002, they gained the support of a local radio station, then the listeners campaigned to get The Fray a record contract. They released their debut album, How to Save a Life, in September 2005.

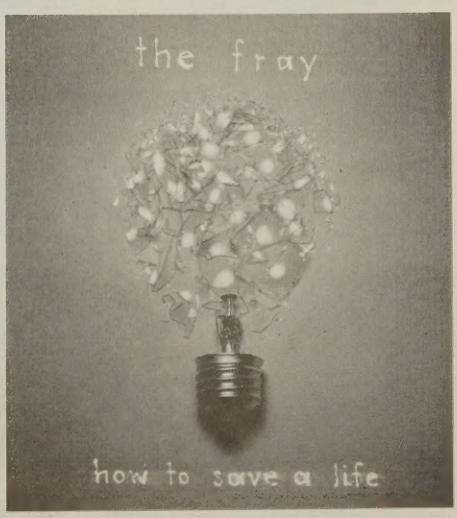
If you've ever listened to Keane, they are very similar to The Fray in that their music is very piano-driven. They are comparable to Coldplay, but not quite as mellow. Their music is great for any high school student, because many of their songs have messages of loss and confusion.

The first half of the album is definitely the better half; I guess they look to put their best foot forward, so to speak. They start their album off with a more upbeat song. There is some guitar in the song, but like almost all songs on this album, it is dominated by piano. This song might be the best on the album; it has great lyrics, like: this is going to break me clean in two/this is going to bring me close to you/she is everything I needed that I never knew I wanted, and so on. "Over My Head (Cable Car)" was the first single off the album, and is similar to "She Is" in rhythm, and song meaning.

The album is title track, "How to Save a Life," has a more subdued beat, but is a great song nonetheless. Isaac Slade's singing is emotional, but not over the top. "All at Once" is pretty balanced in terms of instrumentation, and the song has a good message to young kids: sometimes the hardest thing and the right thing are the same. This song is alright, but hardly my favorite. "Fall Away" is mellow, which makes it a nice song to relax too. "Heaven Forbid" sounds almost exactly like Keane, so that should tell you whether or not you will like this song. "Look After You" is kind of boring in terms of the music, but there is a violin, which goes great with the emotional vocals of Slade.

"Hundred" sounds much like a classical work of music for the first minute, when there is only piano. The song is very relaxing, but not one of the better songs on the CD. "Vienna" sounds like "Hundred" because both are slow and melodic, but again, not one of the better songs on the CD. Like I said earlier, the first half of this album is much better than the second half. "Dead Wrong" might be the only considerably good song on the second half of this album, but even this song doesn't stack up to the songs on the first half. "Little House" has a unique sound, and alternates from soft, gentle singing and a piano to more intense singing and an electric guitar in the background. This alternation occurs several times throughout the song. "Trust Me" is mediocre; there isn't anything special about the song.

Overall, I would recommend checking The Fray out. If you like Coldplay, Keane, and Ben Folds, odds are you will enjoy at least some, if not all, of the songs, on their twelve-track debut, "How to Save a Life."



'The New World' gives look into true cultural tragedy

By Dillon Kimmel
Co-editor in chief

On a peaceful day in 1607, three British ships arrive in the heart of Virginia to establish Jamestown, the first permanent settlement in the "new Led by the power-hungry Captain Christopher Newport (Christopher Plummer) and the rugged rebel John Smith (Colin Farrell), an ill-equipped group of British subjects land in Chesapeake Bay, determined to set the foundation for a successful nation.

Meanwhile, the Indians have known this land for hundreds of years as home. They stand on the banks of the bay in astonishment as they watch the three "giants" slowly enveloping their bay. However, the "Naturals," as the British call them, are as curious as they are terrified. Soon, they begin making contact with the white men, watching them as they work. They live under the false assumption that the men will soon be leaving their land and returning from where they came from. Never does it occur to them that these people would be considering a long-term stay.

Staging an expedition upriver to make contact and trade with other Indians, the daring John Smith, (the only man with any military experience) takes a small group of settlers and Indians into the forest to explore. He is quickly taken captive by the powerful Indian chief Powhatan. He lives in the camp for some time and befriends the chief's beautiful daughter, Pocahontas (Q'Orianka Kilcher). And when Powhatan's men attempt to execute Smith, Pocahontas throws herself down on him and begs her father to spare Smith's life. Powhatan does spare his life, but makes Smith promise that once spring comes, his men will leave for land forever. As fall turns to winter, Smith continues to live in the village with the Indians and teaches Pocahontas English. Soon, Smith finds himself falling in love with her.

Smith returns to Jamestown to find the town decimated by disease and starvation. Most of the original settlers are dead, and the ones that remain are severely malnourished. Because of Pocahontas and Smith's bond, the Naturals help the settlers survive their first winter in Jamestown.

But when spring arrives and more settlers arrive, the Naturals soon realize the white men have no plans of leaving. The tentative and precarious peace shared between Indian and man is about to shatter. Misunderstanding and deception soon lead to open war, and John Smith must soon make a choice: leave at once and spare innocent life or defy the king's orders and pursue his love affair with Pocahontas.

The New World does a wonderful job of describing a tragic clash of cultures that still can be applied today. The Naturals and white men live together peacefully for months, both of which having misread the other's intentions. When both realize they have been wrong all this time, they immediately result to open warfare. The love story in The New World is also passionate and moving. Both Smith and Pocahontas care about each other deeply (this is made very evident without any sexual interaction between the two). In fact, the audience only sees the two kiss once.

Overall, The New World provides a deeply moving look into what really happened between John Smith and Pocahontas in the early 1600's. The confrontation between the white men and the Naturals is shown as being a mutual confrontation, unlike most history books which blame the war on the Indians. It is a classic story of love, betrayal, and the horrors that ensue when cultures clash.

"i play intramurals for the ladies," derek deroo (9).

"intramurals are my anti-drug," michael jenkins (10).

"bring home the ship," andy rosenblatt (11).

"intramurals: no words can describe it," bryon glaze (12).

intramuralbasketball

Intramural basketball provides competitive, extra-curricular program for students who love to play ball; 18 teams make up this year's league with games beginning daily at 3:30 and 4:30 P.M.

theteams

59ers
Record 0-3

Trojans
Record 1-2

Team 18
Record 1-1

AKBAR
Record 3-0

Cash Money
n/a

Moose Knuckles
Record 2-1

Cleveland Racers
Record 1-2

Dasani
Record 1-2

Hardwood Ballers
Record 3-1

Pouty Penguins
n/a

Rough Housers
Record 1-2

Team 19
Record 2-1

Super Troopers
Record 0-3

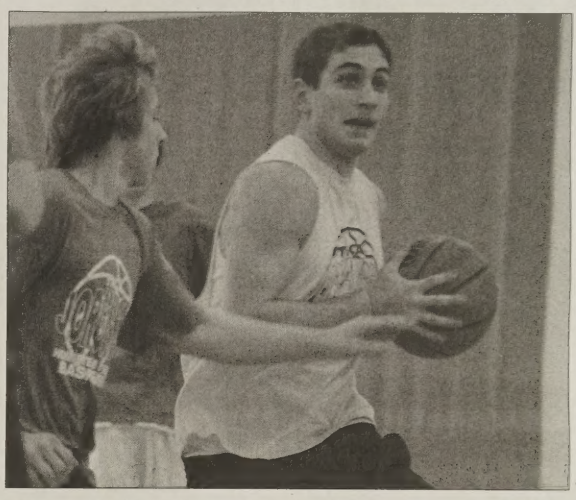
The Action
Record 1-1

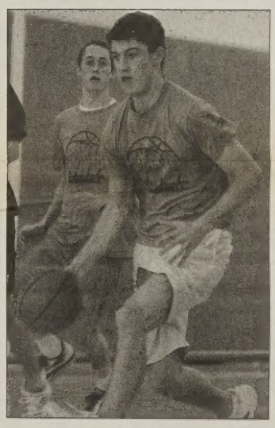
Tummy Squeakers
Record 3-0

Wannabeez
Record 0-3

Channel 4 News Team
Record 2-1

The Fighting Cavs
Record 2-1





Top: Kevin Bartkowiak (12) guards Justin McCulloch (12) during an intramural game after school at the YMCA. Above: Logan Derck (12) dribbles down the court. Right: Brian Rosenblatt (12) attempts to take the ball from his teammate, Neil Rifkin (12). Far right: Brian Rosenblatt (11) puts up a shot while being guarded by Nate Strothmann (12).

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

Who plays intramurals basketball? Guys who used to play basketball on a team, guys that have never played before, and guys that just want to hang out with their friends. It doesn't matter why they are playing, intramurals are just for fun. Intramurals gives guys a chance to have play competitively, without the pressure. It is an activity that gives them something fun to do after school, and helps keep them in shape. They are able to hang out with a bunch a friends in a safe environment.

Nick Myers (10) is one of those guys that just plays intramurals to hang with his friends. David Greco (10), another member of the Wannabeez, was getting a team together and talked Myers into playing. Greco picked a group of his friends that he thought would have fun playing basketball; he didn't worry too much about if they were going to be very good or not. Myers hasn't played a whole lot of organized basketball before, just some after school enrichment programs to work on his skills.

"Even though we aren't a very good team, we still have fun playing together," Myers said.

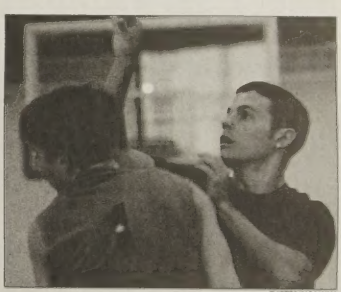
Myers thinks that the best part of the season so far was when his team was defeated 139 – 12. They were playing the Channel 4 News Team, who Myers thinks will do really well if they were able to score that many points in just one game. In Myers' opinion, the Wannabeez are actually pretty bad with a record of 0-3.

"At least we all do bad together as a team. We don't have any 'star' players," Myers said.

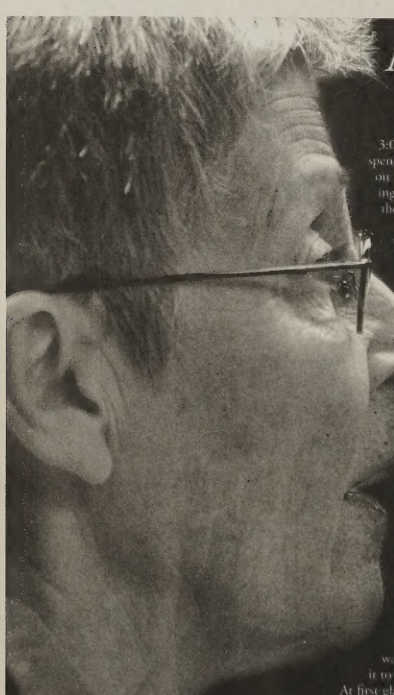
Myers likes to hang out with his friends and intramurals is only one of the many ways he does that. He is involved in JCL, Key Club and Spanish Club, but luckily none of those activities interfere with each other.

Everyday after school there is a game at the YMCA. The first game starts at 3:30 and then the second game follows at 4:30. The season started in mid-January and continues through the beginning of March. The teams will all participate in a tournament at the end of the season. The team that wins gets bragging rights for the rest of the year, until the next intramural season starts.

Not only does intramurals give the players something to do after school, it gives the rest of the students a place to hang out. Students don't have to be a member of the YMCA to come watch the games. You could spend time with your friends while cheering on the other players you know.



PHOTOS KARA WALL



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SUSIE JOHNSON

By Taylor Underwood
Writer

3:00-3:30 AM: Wakes up and spends an hour and a half working on school work, reading, working on puzzles, and listening to the news.

5:00 AM: On the way to the Y.

5:25 AM: Exercising: either taking a class, working out on a machine, or running.

7:00 AM: Arrives at school, begins getting ready for the day by answering emails, working the copy machine, or attending a meeting.

7:50 AM-2:35 PM: Busy teaching her students, and learning from them, as well.

2:35-4:00 or 5:00 PM: Stays at school and work, except Tuesdays' when she leaves for Yoga class.

5:00-9:30 PM: All evening spent with husband Thom and Jack Russell Terrier, Bailey. She and Thom read, take walks, see movies, watch TV, and hopefully make it to bed by 9:30.

At first glance, etymology teacher Susie Johnson looks to be just your average teacher. Her schedule, too, seems nothing out of the ordinary with daily workouts, schoolwork, and spending leisurely time with her family. But with a deeper look into Susie Johnson, one would soon find there is more than meets the eye.

Johnson was born in Kendallville, IN 60 years ago, and moved to Fort Wayne when she was only a few weeks old. She is the second child of three girls, and attended Forest Park for kindergarten, Holy Cross Lutheran School for elementary school, and North Side for high school. Straight out of high school she attended Indiana University to study medicine, but quickly realized it was not the profession for her with becoming ill at the sight of every bodily fluid. She married her high school sweetheart and had a son and daughter. Now a grandmother of two boys and one girl, Johnson is proud to be able to take her granddaughter to the American Girl Store in Chicago.

At the age of 32, Johnson returned to school and completed her undergraduate studies in eight years, graduating top of her class with honors. After a divorce, Johnson went to school to learn to type, worked in for the Director of Libraries at the University of Toledo. During her junior year in the College of Arts and Sciences, she was awarded the National Endowment for Humanities Grant, which allowed her to study at Harvard of several weeks. There she met and studied with the foremost poetry critic in the world, Professor Helen Vendler, who encouraged Johnson to continue her studies there at Harvard. After graduation from the University of Toledo, Johnson received a scholarship to Harvard, and graduated with a degree in education and English.

Throughout her studies, her children also focused on education by finishing high school and leaving for college. Johnson adored Harvards Maine campus and city and planned on becoming a resident there, until her ill mother brought her home. Soon she met Thom Johnson, whom she knew she would marry one day. She and Thom did marry, 11 years ago January 1.

Aside from 17 years of single parenthood and her will to receive an education, Johnson has struggled with cancer multiple times.

"Cancer has effected my life in many ways," said Johnson. "It has helped me wake up in the morning with gratitude for whatever comes my way, because I know that by being alive, I will be able to experience something new- good or bad- and that experience will give me new awareness, new knowledge, new wisdom. Cancer set me free to live in this moment and forget about all the petty, insignificant trifling of life. There is no time for anger or regret, there is only now and it is alive with promise."

Johnson has discovered a new love for life being a cancer survivor, though one of her true loves is teaching.

"I became a teacher because, more than anything in life, I love to learn," said Johnson.

Just as much as she loves to learn herself, she loves to spend time with young people teaching them how to learn. Her own high school experience made a great difference in her life. Severely depressed and unhappy, Johnson became a danger to herself for many years. Years later, Johnson was hospitalized for treatment of her depression. From a mix of treatment and will, Johnson became better and now works with young people to try to help make their lives more positive because she knows being a teenager today is much more difficult than when she was in high school.

Anyone who has had the privilege of having Johnson as a teacher knows how positive she really is.

Brothers, continued from page 1

meet Marine time requirements.

"My dad was a marine and it really wasn't much of a decision to make."

"He's wanted to be a Marine since, literally, when he was probably three," Ron's mother, Victorie Brown said. "Ronnie's watched his dad jump out of planes since he was little, and [the Corps] is what he wanted-it's what we knew he would do. [When he left] I was telling him, 'get everything you can out of it.' He really thinks it's going to be fun."

Brown and Gary Huber fill out their contracts at the military processing center in Indianapolis.

Brown's mother recognizes that being with Huber must ease her son's transition.

"It must be a big comfort to him, in knowing someone, because someone that you know from before the Marines is there too. They'll feel more secure. It's hard to leave anytime from home but when you go it makes it a bit easier when you know someone." Following an early graduation after the first semester of this year, Brown and Huber enlisted under the buddy program in the Marines. They'll remain together through boot camp, and each night they'll share a bunk. They're both joining as active duty troops.

Huber's choice was not as easy as Brown's. Inspired by family members' experiences serving they're country, he was certain coming into senior year that he wanted to join the military, but he wasn't sure which branch he'd join. After speaking with Brown, the decision became much easier for him, but his parents did not respond well to it.

"[My parents] hated it," Huber said. "They were kind of quiet at first, and my mom did a lot of crying. My mom [didn't] want me to go, and my dad's still really angry about it."

"We were just worried about him, his safety, his life," Gary's mother said. "He wanted to do it, and we respect that. But we definitely tried to talk him out of it. I wouldn't be half as worried if there wasn't [the war in] Iraq going on. We were willing and able to send him to college. Some kids have to [serve in the] Marines [in order to afford] school…but Gary wasn't one of them. When he left, I told Gary that we loved him and we'd miss him, and to write as often as he could. We're very proud of him."

Huber dropped his bonuses on a 2004 GMC Sierra, blue, he pointed out. Brown is saving his money, he can't be sure where he's headed with the Corps, and doesn't want to leave a car behind. Their plans for the future vary greatly.

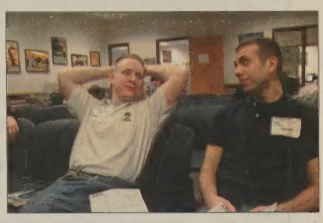
"I want to join Force Recon [a Marine special operations unit], and eventually become a Gunnery Sergeant," Brown said.

"I do want to be an officer…at least a second Lt.," Huber said. Huber hopes to go to college following his service, though he doesn't know what he'll study.

On Tuesday, they said goodbye to their parents as they boarded a shuttle bus for Indianapolis. They arrived at the Hilton hotel in preparation for processing the next morning. On Wednesday at five A.M. they left the hotel for Ft. Harrison. After hours of paperwork, contracts and measurements, Huber and Brown took the general military oath and stepped onto a commercial airliner. They landed in San Diego where boot camp officially began.

There was a theme during the two days of preparation: waiting. For hours, Huber, Brown, and the other young men and women joining the military watched movies and played Madden football in their hotel rooms. When they arrived for processing, they shared stories of their pre-Corps lives and hung out with fellow Ft. Wayne natives Walter Story, a graduate of Bellmont, and Mike Rian, a Snider graduate. As part of the 3rd Battalion White Company, all four men will be together through boot camp.

Following boot, Huber and Brown will further their training: both will spend 52 days in infantry training at Camp Pendleton Calif., and Brown will pursue artillery training after that. According to the men and their recruiters, they are almost certain to be stationed in Iraq. Both are anxious to get out of basic and head to more training and eventually service overseas.



Ron Brown (12) and Gary Huber (12) wait to be shipped out in Indianapolis.

"I think it's a good thing we're there," Brown said of Iraq. "The recruiters and people who have been there have told us about it. They've told us how to stay calm, how to stay awake… stuff like that."

"I just want to get boot camp over with," Huber said. "13 weeks is a long time."

Drama teacher Ed Koczergo and social studies teacher Jon Baker reflected on the young mens' dedication, both to their schoolwork and their futures.

"I guess for Ron, specifically, dedication to what you want to do [is what defines him]. Wanting to join the Marines because it sounds cool is the wrong reason, but Ron's got the heart and desire [to succeed]," Baker said. "I think Ron was born a marine, so he'll do it. The guy lives it."

Baker has known Brown since Ron's sophomore year, when Brown was a sophomore in one of his classes. He has also known Gary for that amount of time.

"I have a deep appreciation for what these guys do. Ron loves the marines, I hope they love him back."

Koczergo had Huber in class recently, and has known him for several years.

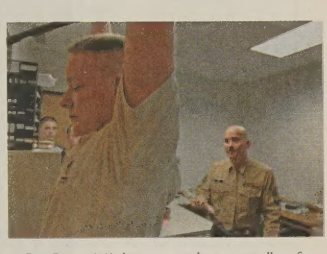
"[Huber] was doing a lot of television stuff, and he is really good when it comes to making our television announcements, I will miss him sorely," Koczergo said. "[Gary is] someone who takes instruction very well. He won't have any problem at all. Gary is a very organized individual…put him on a task and he'll complete it, no need to go back and check on him at all. He is on it."

Brown and Huber are looking forward to their new lives.

"To me, all the training, the deployment, it's all just something new," Brown said. "I just want to be a part of something," Huber said. "I'm hoping to be [in Iraq] next year…they need our help, and we're able to give it to them."

> "I have been thinking about it every day. I wake up and I think about it. I go to bed and I think about it."

Gary Huber (12) quizzes Brown's nephew Andrew Brown while waiting for the shuttle from the recruiters.

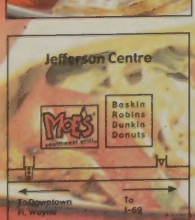


Ron Brown (12) demonstrates the proper pull up form for fellow Marine recruits. They were required to do at least three pull ups to pass their ISTs.

Gary Huber (12) hangs out at an Indianapolis gas station with Ron Brown (12), Walter Story (Bellmont), and Mike Rian (Snider). All of the Ft. Wayne Marine recruits were placed in 3rd Battalion, White Company.

Ron Brown (12) and Gary Huber (12) take the general military oath before shipping out for boot camp in San Diego California.

Ron Brown (12) discusses football tactics with fellow Marine recruit D.J Bauer during a football game between future Marines. Bauer will ship out for the Marines in March. Both acted as leaders of the recruits because of training, experience, and assisting in recruiting. Ron, after boot camp, will enter as a private first class because he helped the Marines find additional recruits.



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the Spartana

Homestead Ink

Students display their body art in the photo essay for this issue, page 12

As students begin entering course selections for next year, counselors respond to their concerns, but many pose the question:

WILL CENTERPOINT PERFORM?

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

Juniors have begun entering their course requests through Centerpoint. While some details of scheduling remain unclear (including whether or not students will be able to select their teachers,) counselors and administrators emphasize that, in the end, scheduling will be completed in time for the 2006-2007 school year.

"I want [students who have concerns] to trust in the fact that…we're doing the best we can for them," counselor Tom Quigley said. "We want you to select your teachers, and we're going to do everything we can do make sure that happens. We have selected teachers for a long time, and that's a neat part about Homestead, but even if that didn't happen, it wouldn't be the end of world…students at many of the schools we compare ourselves against have never been able to select their teachers."

Tuesday, the first students began entering their course selections into Centerpoint, underclassmen will follow within the next few weeks and the process is scheduled to be completed by March 3. Counselors and technology staff were on hand to give students login information (had they lost or forgotten theirs) and to help students with the program.

Assistant principal Steve Lake will take the information received from students and begin compiling the "master

see Centerpoint, on page 2

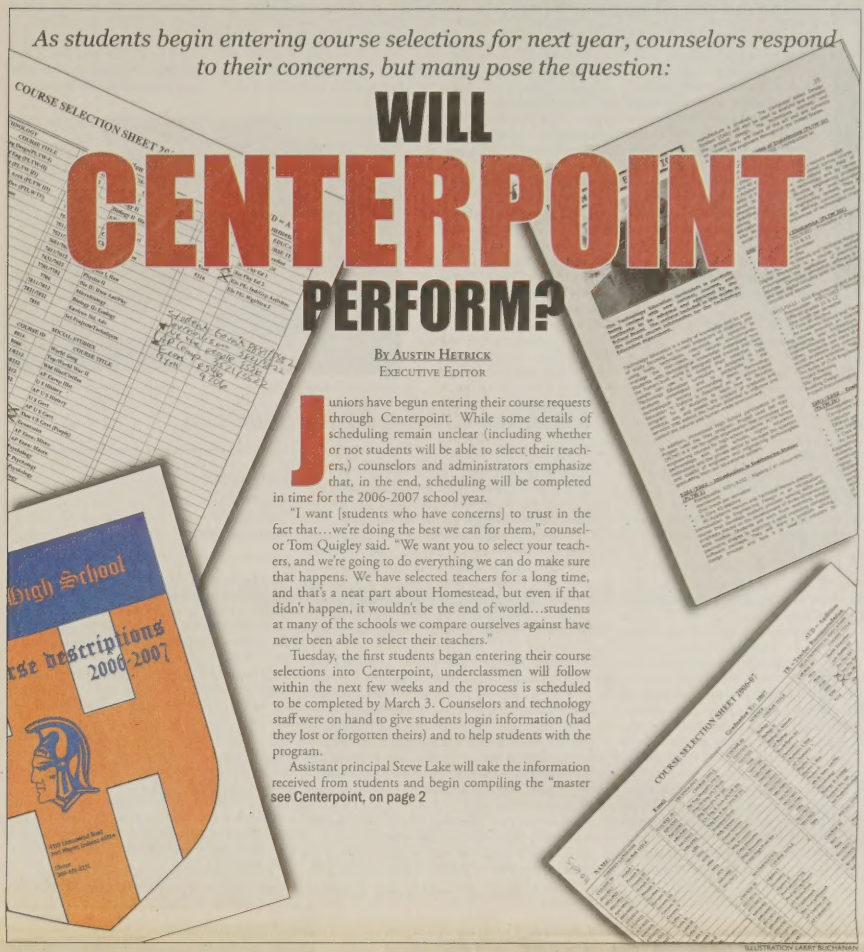

ILLUSTRATION LARRY BUCHANAN

CLUBS ROUNDUP

KEY CLUB

Starting in March, Key Club will be holding nominations for new board members. The new board will take over after spring break. All members who wish to participate in this election process must be present at meetings on Thursdays. New service projects will be presented throughout the month such as opportunities to coach youth soccer teams. Additionally, beginning next week Key Club will once again starts its recycling project. Students who still wish to join must first pay dues and turn in the drug testing form before they are allowed to participate in service projects.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

National Honor Society is will host its annual coffee house in the spring. Members who still need to complete their five hours of community service should contact the executive board members if they wish to help in the planning of this project. The coffee house will include music from various student bands, and hot beverages will be available. National Honor Society still has after-school tutoring in the IMC. Students who require help in any subject are encouraged to attend.

SPEECH TEAM

The speech team competed at a meet at Snider on Feb. 19. This meet was also district competition for the Congress event-it determined which members will be going to nationals for Congress. The team is hopeful that this year (like the year before,) a member will make it to nationals. The rest of the speech team is also preparing for the state-qualifying meet on March 4.

DANCE TEAM

The Homestead Dance Team hosted its eighth annual competition on Feb. 18. Both high school and middle schools came from across the state to compete. Because they were the hosting team, the *squad did not compete.*

ACADEMIC SUPERBOWL

Academic Super Bowl teams have started meeting to determine which students will comprise the different teams. Students who would like to participate should see Jon Baker for more information. Last year, the science team placed first in state competition and the social studies team placed fifth at state. This year returning members are optimistic that they will be able to do even better.

HONOR ROLL BREAKFAST

The honor roll breakfast took place on Feb. 15 for underclassmen and on Feb. 23 for upperclassmen. The honor roll breakfast was held for students and parents of students that are either on honor roll or distinguished honor roll. At the junior and senior breakfast the vale-dictorian and salutatorian of the class of 2006, Danny Panyard and Paul Gilbert respectively, were announced.

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PAGE 11, Life: A closer look at Emily Nestel (12)
PAGE 12, Life: Students display their body art (tattoos).

CORRECTIONS/CHANGES

In the Feb. 7 issue of the Spartana, members of the Elite show choir were incorrectly identified as wearing cow suits. The suits were not cow suits, they were polka-dotted.

Please note the changes in the staff box. The executive editors include Austin Hetrick and Dillon Kimmel (copy and concept,) Zach Hetrick (photography,) and Larry Buchanan (design.)

First positive: new drug testing results

By Luke Chase with reporting by Karolina Heyduk
Writers

First semester, 158 students: three positive tests. The random drug testing program results will be officially released to the school board at the end of the year.

Three of the students tested in the first semester were confirmed as positive. Results are only available upon request.

The program director for Southwest Allen County Schools' (SACS) random drug-testing program is Cindy Probst. Probst oversees the middle school and high school program. If a positive result is received Probst contacts the student, but other administrators handle punishment.

"The random drug testing is one piece of SACS' overall prevention and intervention efforts," school social worker Anita Gross said. Administrators are continually reviewing the effectiveness of all the schools' prevention programs.

At the end of January the school made its first major change to the program when they began utilizing a new lab to produce the tests. The switch was made to fulfill certification requirements for grants.

This switch only changed the methods of sending paperwork and other administrative aspects of the program. The way students are dealt with and tested remain the same.

Twenty students a week are tested at Homestead and five a week at the middle schools. Middle schools began testing students at the start of second semester.

see Drugs, on page 2

BY THE NUMBERS: DRUG TESTING
3 students caught
158 students tested in the first semester
30 students to be tested in the coming weeks in the program

Lip Sync revamped

Student government picks up former show choir event, working on improvements

By Destany Maddox
Writer

GRAPHIC LARRY BUCHANAN

Last fall, student government delivered the disappointing news that Homestead's Annual "Lip Sync" competition was cancelled. Participants said that a lack of interest led to its demise. But on Feb. 13 Student government gave Lip Sync a second chance.

"This year there was a problem of student interest. If this continues, [Lip Sync] might disappear completely," Lip Sync coordinator, David Ramsey (9) said.

Although the event was cancelled partially due to lack of student interest, the Lip Sync committee had little difficulty finding potential acts. Numerous groups were turned away because of suggestive dance moves and questionable lyrics. Under new management and new ideas, Lip Sync coordinators are hoping to clean up the acts

see Lip Sync, on page 2

By Dillon Kimmel
with reporting by Austin Hetrick
Executive Editors

Since 1925, when Williams Jennings Bryan put a science teacher in Tennessee on trial for teaching evolution, creationists and evolutionists have waged a war for credibility, both on a political level and also in every classroom in America.

According to the creationist website, answersingenesis.org, evolutionists and creationists have distinct platforms for their beliefs. Evolutionists believe that around 15 billion years ago the universe exploded into existence through a phenomenon called "The Big Bang Theory." Around 4.6 billion years ago, the Earth evolved. Then, about a billion years later, the first life evolved. Hu-

see Evolution, on page 2

ILLUSTRATION LARRY BUCHANAN, PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Crum visits Canada on Lilly grant project

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

At Blatchford Lake in the Northwest Territory in Canada, a natural light show takes place each year. Blatchford Lake is one of the best places on the planet to view the Aurora Borealis, commonly referred to as the "Northern Lights."

Stanley Crum, a physics teacher, had the opportunity to travel to Blatchford Lake to see the phenomenon first-hand. Crum's trip was made possible by the Eli Lilly endowment grant worth $8,000. He went through the application process last year and found out about the grant last March.

In his grant proposal, Crum decided to split up his trip into two parts, a summer trip and a winter trip. During the summer, Crum traveled through the North Dakota badlands and stopped at Glaciers National Park before heading up to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territory, Canada. In the summer, Crum became familiar with the surroundings and made all of the arrangements for his return during the winter when the nights are longer and one can better view the

see Crum, on page 2

Centerpoint, continued from page 1

PHOTO CHRIS ROZMAN

Above: Christina Davis helps a freshman with the new arena scheduling. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors all scheduled on Feb. 22. Right: Tom Quigley helps out Matt Deschner (11) with his senior schedule.

schedule." Students' data entry is only 20 percent of scheduling, Lake said.

"The way the system is set up, the computer automatically gives seniors preference and then juniors and so on," Lake said. "If we get to a point when a senior (or any student) gets his schedule and it's not working, we'll sit down with a counselor and get it fixed."

One challenge with Centerpoint is that because it is a web-based program, students' choices are not immediately reflected on the system (the web does reflect updates on a regular basis, however). Thus, when a class passes its limit of students, administrators will not be able to "close" that course as they had in past years by posting lists of full classes. Instead, Lake will view the updated system as a survey, and will add or subtract sections of a course to reflect the amount of students who want to take it.

"I think we're going to get the schedule done [through Centerpoint], it may take a long time, but it's going to get done," Lake said.

Lake predicts that the master schedule may be completed within one-two months, slightly more time than the previous method of scheduling would take. Quigley and Lake are not sure what will become of teacher selection, but they are optimistic that the system will accommodate it.

"At the moment we believe that once we've established the master schedule, students will be able to go in and [enter] teacher preferences," Quigley said. "Students will select as a preference which teacher they want. That is put into the computer, and the computer schedules the student with that preference in mind."

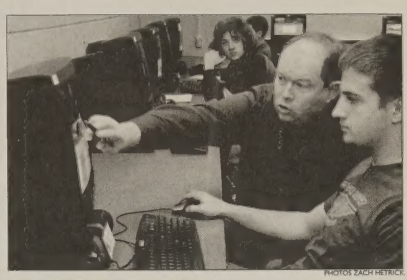
Other schools in Indiana and across the country are attempting Centerpoint scheduling for the first time. Center Grove high school in Greenwood, Indiana is slightly behind in the process, as is Warsaw Community high school in Warsaw, Indiana.

"It's in Pearson's best interest to make sure our scheduling goes well," Lake said. "If Homestead doesn't have success with the product, the word will get out, and it's going to be tough to sell. This school is well known and relatively tech-savvy, it's an important test for Centerpoint. But people need to be patient and understanding. If something doesn't work out, come see a counselor and we'll get it fixed…that's what we're here for: to try to get [students] what they need to get off to college and be successful."

"I don't think I, personally, will have problems with Centerpoint, but the school will probably have many because no one seemed to know what they were doing," Megan Farmer (11) said.

Farmer also said she would not be happy if she were not able to pick her teachers for next year.

"I would be very angry because I will be a senior next year. If they are going to experiment with Centerpoint, do it on the freshmen."



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Crum, continued from page 1

aurora.

Crum's trip took place during the week of Feb. 13 through the 17. He flew to his destination and got around mainly by snowmobile and airplane at Blatchford Lake, where cars are a rarity. After the trip, Crum arrived to temperatures downwards of -30 degrees Celsius.

"It was so cold in the lodge that I had to change into warmer clothes," Crum said in a video conference with students on Feb. 16. "The ice roads here are generally four feet thick this time of year, but they are 27 inches thick right now."

Armed with special cameras and lenses covered by the grant to capture the aurora, Crum stayed in a lodge on the lake and photographed the spectacular light show at night. As far North as Crum was, the night consisted of about 14 hours.

"The intensity and duration of the aurora really depends on the night," Crum explained to students. "Some nights the aurora lasts for two hours, and others it lasts all night."

Crum photographed the aurora during a full moon and saw mainly green in the bands of light.

"The moon gave good background so it enhanced the view in that respect," Crum said. "Green is the typical color of the aurora…but we had a good enough aurora last night (Feb. 15) that we saw red in some of the bands."

The lights of the aurora move fairly slowly. During the video conference, students were able to see some photographs taken by Crum on a slide show. Students were then able to question Crum about the trip.

Crum returned from his trip this week and shared the results of his journey with students. Although he was not able to bring a computer to do some data collecting because of a weight limit, Crum was able to display his stunning images.

Through the Lilly Endowment grant, Crum was able to pursue a dream. He was able to go beyond the pictures and descriptions and experience the aurora first hand. Because ultimately, the pictures could never truly capture the real experience, the cold, the sounds, and the true beauty of the wavering sheets of spectacular light.

Lip Sync, continued from page 1

and revitalize the enthusiasm.

Student Government hopes to revive the Lip Sync legacy by adding some entertaining changes.

"The best thing we can do is try, but without change it will die, guaranteed," Ramsey said.

Because of student interest in annual television contest, "American Idol," the Lip Sync committee has the idea of transforming this year's contest into an American Idol parody.

Three students will play mock judges Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul, and Simon Cowel. Special performances may include an imitation William Hung.

"We are trying to make it more appealing to everyone," committee member Seth Dager (12) said.

Students wanting to attend the show should expect numerous comedic acts and more popular culture references in the future. Dager is hoping that this new approach will attract student interest.

In addition to the new take on the event, students are also benefiting from the change in date.

Nathan West (10) had decided not to participate in first semester's Lip Sync.

However, new ideas and friendships persuaded him to sign up in the second semester.

"We didn't sign up first semester because we didn't know what we wanted to do, so we are grateful that there is a chance for us to try out. We are excited and hope that people will enjoy our performance as much as we will performing it."

MORE ON LIP SYNC
Date: March 15
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Auditorium

Zenna Alcoster (10), Kaylee Wunderlin (10), and Esperanza Castillo (10) will be joining West in his performance.

Student Government officials assumed that because of the size of the variety show, Lip Sync would be over shadowed. However, students believe otherwise.

'I don't think that the variety show will overshadow Lip [Sync] because it's for the talent impaired people. Its more fun," Alissa Shepherd (10) said.

The deadline for participants was today, and auditions will be held on March 1. For those who wish to experience the new attractions, the show will be in the auditorium after school on Wednesday, March 15.

Evolution, continued from page 1

mans in turn evolved from ape-like creatures. The creationist and Intelligent Design model supports the literal interpretation of the book of Genesis. They support the idea that God created the Earth and everything in it in six days, Eve's original sin caused death, God destroyed the world in a worldwide flood, and man was created in God's image.

To shed light on this contradiction, Concordia biology teacher Chris Gieschen spoke in the auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:00 P.M. Throughout the presentation, Gieschen pointed out the flaws he sees in the evolution model.

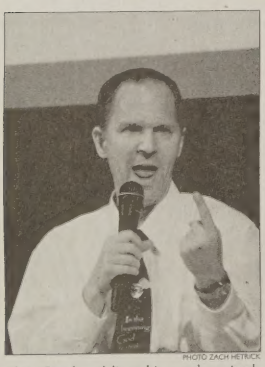


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Chris Gieschen delivers his speech on intelligent design in the Homestead auditorium. Gieschen was invited to speak by The Southwest Luthren Church.

After the presentation, Gieschen entertained questions and shared his opinions on evolution versus Intelligent Design in schools.

"I think that evolution is a paradigm or a worldview or a philosophy. You can teach speciation and population genetics, but where we come from is not a scientific question. It is philosophical and religious question," Gieschen said.

Gieschen also expressed concern over students being subjected to only evolution in the classroom.

"I think students have a right to ask questions. If they ask their science teacher, he should say [evolution] is not a science issue, it is an issue of philosophy…He should not say science has proven you came from pond scum because that hasn't happened," Gieschen said.

The board of education in Indiana mandates what topics have to be included in any high school curriculum. When a teacher signs with SACS, they must agree to teach and test students on the mandated material. Students must perform at a certain level or they will not graduate. Evolution is one of about a half dozen topics that must be taught in biology.

"Essentially, I am required to teach evolution, even if I didn't particularly believe it…Nowhere in there is there anything about Intelligent Design," Jay Hammel, freshmen biology teacher, said.

However, Hammel did say there is room to discuss other possibilities besides evolution.

"In the unit "Historical Perspectives of Biology" there is an opportunity to talk about the history of the debate between evolutionists and creationists," Hammel said.

Despite ongoing attempts by creationists to convince the courts to allow Intelligent Design enter the science classrooms, Hammel did not see them succeeding any time soon.

"Creationism is the literal interpretation of Genesis. The courts ruled that it is not science, it is religion, and you cannot teach religion in public schools… The new name of Intelligent Design is really another suit put on creationism with a hope of getting it passed. It will probably come and it will probably lose again," Hammel said.

Another recent controversy has been whether or not Intelligent Design should be considered a theory.

"[Intelligent Design] is certainly not a theory. It's a hypothesis…It's based on the literal interpretation of the book of Genesis. Therein lays the problem with these people trying to get it into science classrooms," Hammel said.

Hammel has been presenting evolution to his students the same way for years.

"...[life] appears to have advanced into more and repeatedly more complex organisms. The fossil record clearly shows this. I also try and explain to kids that if you accept the fact that life has changed there's plenty of room to believe there is a creator…It is possible, is it not, that God could have created life on this earth through this awesome process and let it develop rather than just speaking it into existence in six days. I try to encourage kids to be open-minded and [understand] that there are very religious people that believe in both ways...I don't know why, if you believe in God, that you have to believe everything just popped into existence. That doesn't seem to be the way things happen," Hammel said."

THE TWO MODELS

HOW DO EVOLUTION AND INTELLIGENT DESIGN COMPARE AND CONTRAST?

EVOLUTION	I.D.
- "I will here give a brief sketch of the progress of Origin of Species." Darwin's Origin of the Species	- "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The Book of Genesis.
- about 15 billion years ago the universe exploded into existence	- God created the universe and everything in it in six days
- about 4.6 billion years ago, the earth evolved	- sin is the cause of all death
- humans evolved from ape-like creatures	- God destroyed the world with a worldwide flood
- 500 million years ago, plants began colonizing the earth. Land animals soon followed.	- man was created in the image of God
- based on scientific evidence	- based on the literal interpretation of Genesis
source: wikipedia.org	source: answersingenesis.org

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- Whiplash
- Scoliosis
- Tingling
- Sciatica
- Stress
- TMJ

Drugs, continued from page 1

"I think as they get older they'll understand more about why adults don't want them to do drugs," Probst said.

Some students have had interesting experiences while being tested Neil Merchant (11) was tested earlier this month but had to return to the discipline office after the initial visit failed to provide a sufficient sample.

"I got to go back two periods later after drinking a bunch of water during passing periods," Merchant said.

Chelsea Patton (10) has a suggested change for the testing.

"I think teachers should have to be tested too if they make students do it," Patton said.

But vice principal Jennifer Bay maintains the hopes she had when the testing was first implemented.

"I would really hope that it is causing some students to turn away from drugs and alcohol."

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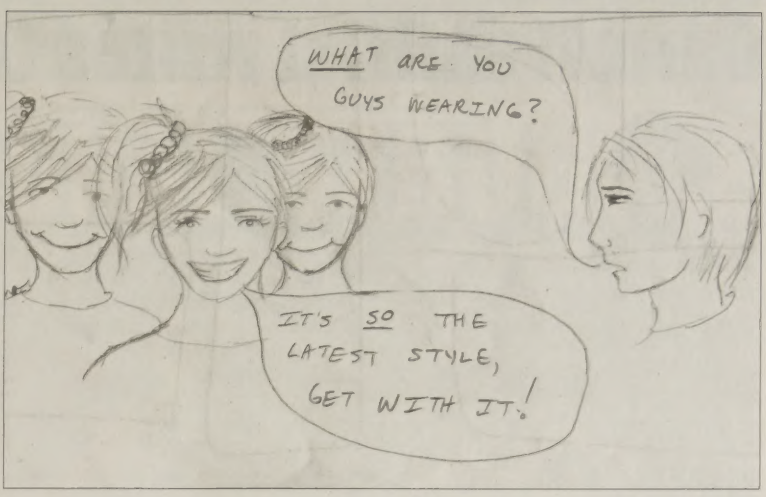
the Spartana

Students should not feel pressured to make a fashion statement at school



Today's youth feels compelled to do a lot of things. We're all aware of the horror stories that revolve around drinking, drugs, and having sex. Statistics are flashed on TV screens, and parents open the newspapers to find that a teenager was arrested for having a stash of cocaine. But peer pressure goes further than just "the big three."

When walking down the halls students can be seen wearing clothing from stores like American Eagle, Banana Republic, and Hollister. It appears that wearing name brand clothing is the "cool" thing to do. While not a new phenomenon, it seems as though more and more students feel pressured to "fit in," and "look cool."

Originally, wearing name brand clothing was a symbol of social status. Perhaps the same applies to Homestead. Students in the Southwest Allen County school district are more apt to afford clothing from these expensive stores. Children from other school districts where the average income is much lower may not place the same emphasis on name brand clothing.

Wearing clothing that one feels comfortable in, both physically and mentally is not always a concern among many students.

The Editorial Board feels that while "looking nice" is sometimes necessary, students are not able express themselves if they feel compelled to wear clothing items produced by only name brand companies.

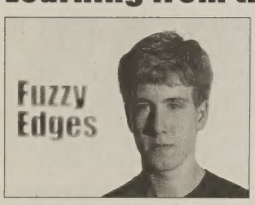
Creativity is not fostered when students want to look just like everyone else. Clothing should be a way of expressing individualism, and expressing who one really is. Students should not feel compelled to wear clothes that they are not comfortable in.

It is imperative that a person feel comfortable in what he or she wears. Name brand clothing stores produce clothing for girls without keeping in mind that the shape of a girl's body is different than that of models or movie stars. Wearing tight clothing is not only physically uncomfortable, but for girls, it is mentally uncomfortable as well. Both males and females feel compelled to look fit and beautiful, but we urge students to remember that beauty is more than just looks.

Again and again, psychological studies have shown that when an individual thinks they look good, they feel good as well. This is one other reason why students may feel compelled to wear name brand clothes. Society has dictated that wearing these items is good, and therefore students have the mentality that wearing name brand clothing is the only way to feel cool.

The Editorial Board urges students to look past name brands. Surprisingly, in major fashion cities, like New York, London, and Paris, the new "craze" is expressing yourself by wearing unique clothing. We believe that instead of worrying so much about how others judge you, a student should focus on his or herself. This act in itself could yield respect by many peer groups.

Learning from the most challenging of diseases



By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

A year ago, I drove my step mom, Pam, to the hospital. After a short walk, we made our way to the chemotherapy floor and she settled into one of five medical chairs. I sat opposite Pam and watched as the nurse prepped her for treatment. Light streamed in from windows behind her and the room gave off the odor of flowers tainted with chemicals.

An elderly couple sat side-by-side and held hands. The small room reminded me of a barbershop, although most of the "customers" had little hair to lose.

Pam died a year ago. While I was climbing into bed after a late-evening performance, she made her way to her bathroom. Though I was not there, I have imagined those events a thousand times. I've seen her fall, heard my father sprinting down the hall, seen Zach call 911 as dad tried to revive her.

Cancer is a horrible thing. It robs us of that which we love most. My father and I are half-blind because of it. My grandmother is gone, and Pam. But cancer can also teach.

Students across the country have faced this disease long before they should have. Some, like me, will survive to tell the tale and even laugh about it. But for some victims of this disease all they can do is watch from the sidelines. Cale Royer (10) is one. Four days after his 16th birthday he learned that his mom had breast cancer. His mother's disease is in remission, but all the same she will lose her hair when she starts chemotherapy later this month. In honor of her, Cale will shave his hair as well.

> *"...[shaving my head] isn't going to heal my mom, but I'm doing it so that she won't feel different, so that she knows I'm with her."*
>
> Cale Royer (10)
> Son of a cancer patient

"It's the principal of the thing really," Royer said. "I know that [shaving my head] isn't going to heal my mom, but I'm doing it so that she won't feel different, so that she knows I'm with her."

School is for learning of all kinds. But the lessons of a rigorous schedule or an intense game cannot compare with the lessons Pam taught me. In her years with cancer she taught me dignity, showed me how to deal with pain, with embarrassment and with death. Cale is beginning to learn these lessons.

Students will leave these halls knowing trigonometry, anatomy, biology, history and English. But what of loss and what of dignity? I have learned to never lose track of that which is most important in the fast-paced world that school becomes. I know that in high school the lines may be blurred: making a squad, making the grade or just hanging out with friends may seem to be what life is all about. But remember those who mean the very most to you, and be prepared to stand with them when they need it most, and at any time.

mailbox

Drop off letters in room 620, call 431 - 2261, or e-mail us at thespartana@gmail.com

I wanted to drop a note complimenting The Spartana staff. In my three years at Homestead, this year's paper looks the best it ever has. [Congratulations] on recently being awarded the NSPA Pacemaker-an accolade well-deserved. You are covering relevant stories and also publishing interesting editorials. I would especially like to compliment the design and photo staff-the layout and overall visual appeal of the newspaper is outstanding. I often hear of the "pub room late nights" and you all should know that your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Great job! Please be sure to share this note with the staff, thank you.

Brad Zehr

A riot of my own

Daunting at times, but Dylan's message rings through

By Jim Katz
Writer

Music is something that brings people together. As I walk down the halls, band T-shirts and iPods are nearly impossible to miss. Everyone talks about and everyone thinks they are an expert and hold the key to what is truly great music. I am not using this article to try to prove that somehow I have superior taste. I am clarifying common misconceptions about a specific musician: Bob Dylan.

In a very general sense, most music today, or any day for that matter, is rather straightforward. Vocally it is melodic, musically it fits in one genre, and lyrically it's either void of meaning or simple enough in its phrasing and message to be easily understood. Dylan is anything but simple.

Dylan began playing traditional folk songs, particularly those of Woody Guthrie, in the coffeehouses of Greenwich Village, a bohemia in the middle of New York City, in the early 1960s. He signed with Columbia records in 1962 and over the next five years would release most of what is considered his greatest albums, including The Times They Are A-Changin', Highway 61 Revisited, and Blonde on Blonde.

He earned an almost religious following between 1962 and 1965. His pounding acoustic guitar and piercing harmonica paired with his poetic and poignant lyrics elevated him to the level of a prophet and modern-day savior in many people's eyes. In 1965, Dylan rebelled from the folk movement, freeing himself to pursuit rock, blues, and any number of other musical styles. He has since been put on, if not at the top of, the list of most influential modern musicians.

Despite all of his success, Dylan has always been a mysterious and misunderstood figure. Today, the stigmas and stereotypes heaped on him are nearly insurmountable for those not yet immersed in Dylan's music. Whether is a burned-out hippie, a raspy redneck who can't sing, or a pathetic poet whose words are without meaning or relevance, people just don't seen to get Dylan. It's time to clarify these assumptions.

Dylan is far from a hippy as defined by the modern conception of the term. Though he most assuredly experimented with drugs and his songs did seem to speak of protest many times, to label him a hippie would be unnecessary pigeon-holing. He is a musician and an artist, and as such, he has gone through many phases, hippy being only one.

Though it's true that Dylan is far from an operatic tenor, to write him off as a 'bad' singer is once again, too simple a solution. His raspy and raw voice, in fact, accentuates the rhythm, rhyme, and message of the songs. Listen to 99 percent of Dylan covers and you'll see what I mean.

Most importantly, Dylan's lyrics are what earned him his devout following and made him the musical and cultural phenomenon that he is. Some of them are complex, deep and purely beautiful.

Darkness at the break of noon
Shadows even the silver spoon
The handmade blade, the child's balloon
Eclipses both the sun and moon
To understand you know too soon
There is no sense in trying.

But not all of his songs are deadly serious political songs. Some are easy to understand and just silly:

It ain't that I'm questionin' you.
To take part in any quiz.
It's just that I ain't got no watch
An' you keep askin' me what time it is.
But if you got to go,
It's all right.
But if you got to go, go now,
Or else you gotta stay all night.

Now I am certainly not expecting every one of you reading this to become Dylan fanatics. Everyone is entitled to his or her tastes. All I'm asking is to give him another chance. He may be daunting at times, but trust me, when he hits home, he his hard. To quote his most famous song, "Like a Rolling Stone: How does it feel?

Pretty damn good.

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of the journalism 3/4 class at Homestead High School. It's purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. *The Spartana* has, and may, continue to operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the advisor, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as define by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support the First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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Carroll satirist writes to Spartana

Dear Editor,

For those of you that have been aware of current events over the last month, you know who I am. I am Jeff Fraser. I am the writer, or "satirist" if you prefer, who wrote the book that stirred up a controversy so absurd that it was covered by the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, among a few dozen other media outlets. I particularly liked the letter written by a man from New York in the Journal Gazette, which labeled the administrators as "pompous and sanctimonious" as well as "baboons". I commend Tracy Warner and Frank Gray of the Journal Gazette, as well as The Spartana for their pro-free speech editorial stances that turned this into a cause célèbre.

Gray said it best: "Expulsion is a penalty reserved for repeated offenses or egregious ones, like burning down the school." I understand this is an issue of concern to students nationwide, as it has set precedence for freedom of speech in Fort Wayne. But considering the response by the public, there should be nothing to worry about; this can only occur at Carroll High School – to be forever known as the "laughing stock of the free world". A school full of administrative pride, and student revulsion; the situation has only demonstrated the major flaws with the educational system as a whole, a system about egos that diminishes student value.

"I am the writer, or 'satirist' if you prefer, who wrote the book that stirred up a controversy so absurd that it was covered by the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, among a few dozen other media outlets."

Jeff Fraser
Carroll Senior

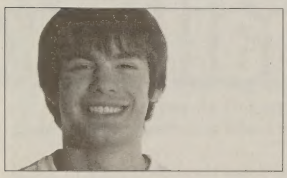
We assumed the administration would learn from its mistakes, having dealt with a debacle of such large proportions. But the dictation continued. Carroll students, becoming increasingly enraged, begin planning protests. They scheduled a Friday where most of the school would purposely violate the dress code. There would not be enough replacement clothing, as it would overwhelm the bureaucracy. The school had been snooping around MySpace accounts, got wind of the protest. They threatened to suspend or expel anyone involved, and even forced some to log in at school so they could read their private messages. And do you think these threats to the relatively polemic students would calm them down? No. A simple conflict had evolved into a war. The same week, the school resource officer resigned because Carroll's administration did not have priorities meant for law enforcement. The word "on the Furthermore, the school heavily censored school newspaper coverage of my events. There were administrators hanging around the publications room, essentially threatening student-journalists. Instead of honest journalism, editors were limited to a generic spread on the history of free speech and the first amendment, without any vague reference to the case. The problems at Carroll have become continually, abstrusely disgusting in that it is ten-fold what it was when I wrote the disparaging book, and I wasn't about to write another. Instead I used my time and developed a blog –fortwayneinsight.blogspot.com – to cover the controversies, a majority of which are contained within the Carroll populace, my purpose being to leave no constitutional right behind. As a Republican, I believe there needs to be at least a strong connection between our own political principles and that of our founders; and government should adhere to that. As founder and chairman of the Allen County Teenage Republicans, it was clear to the community I was not purely out for a laugh, but that I wrote with a purpose. Maybe I was too influential with my anti-administrative rhetoric, or perhaps I didn't fit their mold of student – mindless drones. Students do not have the full rights as a student. Administrations attempt to recognize American ideals by allowing debates in class, but instead they concentrate on other American ideals such as their personal "pursuit of happiness", that is quelling their critics through expulsion.

Fortunately, school board elections are being held this year. Also, I encourage you all to register to vote in your own elections. Accountability will kick in and the voters will elect a new school board, which is why I stand with the voters of NACS to vote out Ronald Felger and John Hilger. The first item on the agenda for this new term is the superintendent's contract, for which "non-renewal" should cause heated debate. It would also be feasible to conduct a poll of the district to calculate the "approval ratings" of individual administrators and replace the ones under 10%.

The destruction at Carroll is two-sided: administrators are self-destructing and destroying students' rights. I no longer have a senior year, but they have sacrificed much more than one students' prom and a semester with friends. They've lost respect, surrendered students' freedoms and for what: to preserve their tyranny. I have faith that the system will correct itself. I have faith that tyranny won't win. Tyranny never wins. Freedom will prevail.

Davis era finally comes to an end

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor



It is finally over. I.U. can now finalize a bitter divorce that began two years ago. Mike Davis is simply not the man to run this team. And he finally did the right thing by accepting a buy-out deal and announcing his resignation at the close of this season.

Davis was handicapped from the first second he accepted the I.U. job. He had Bobby Knight to follow, the most loved (and hated) and most successful coach in I.U. history. After a blistering start that saw the team go 67-38 in Davis's first three seasons, including three NCAA tournament appearances and a national championship loss to Maryland, Davis is just 42-38 in his last two plus seasons, and has not been to an NCAA tournament game since the end of the 2003 season.

Davis has let so many outstanding homegrown prospects get away, most notably Josh McRoberts now at Duke, Rodney Carney now at Memphis and mega-prospect Greg Oden who has been wooed by Ohio State. Davis won with Bobby Knight's players. Unfortunately, because of his sub-par recruiting, he has not been able to put together a top team since. After last season's 15-14 campaign, Davis was asked to come back, but was given an ultimatum: win or be fired.

This year, Davis brought in Auburn transfers Marco Killingsworth and Lewis Monroe for a last-ditch effort to get the I.U. program back to the top. This year's team was built to win this year, with Monroe and Killingsworth both with just this year of eligibility remaining. Roderick Wilmont and Marshall Strickland and both seniors and D.J. White looks like an early-exit candidate for the NBA.

Unfortunately, before the season even began, I.U. was dealt a huge blow when White broke his foot. The team kept it together, going 5-2 without the player of the year candidate at the helm, and winning five straight after his return. But after I.U.'s big win over Illinois, it was announced that White had reinjured his foot and his return to the team was very unlikely. I.U. has yet to recover from White's injury. After the blistering 10-2 start, they have lost six of their last nine, including four in a row to fall to 13-9 overall and 5-6 in Big Ten play.

After an 18 point loss to previously struggling Wisconsin, many I.U. fans lost their patience. Students planned a protest that involved wearing black shirts to home games, and websites such as firemikedavis.com began popping up all over the web.

He is doing himself and the program a favor in doing so. He recently said in an interview with ESPN that I.U. needed "one of their own" to coach the team, and he is definitely right. I.U. needs a coach that has been in the program before that can be embraced by everyone. In my opinion, Steve Alford at Iowa seems a perfect pick. Even though his resume may be even less than that of Davis's, the fans at I.U. will happily embrace a former player to coach the team.

With four of their final six games remaining on the road, I.U. must mount an incredible comeback to salvage a seemingly lost season. Bracketologist Joe Lunardi of ESPN had I.U. in the NCAA tournament picture as of last week, but with the way this team has struggled on the road, I don't see them winning any of their remaining games away from Assembly Hall, which means NIT once again.

And for a program like I.U., that is simply unacceptable.

Television ratings reflect the loss of passion for American Olympic sports

By Tim Clark
Writer

The horn has just sounded at the end of another winter Olympic hockey game in Torino, Italy. Did you hear it? Probably not. Did you care? I doubt it. Did you even realize hockey was being played, professionally, again? Unless you've heard about Wayne Gretzky's involvement in the recent betting scandal, you probably have not heard a lick about pro hockey.

Let's try something else. Did you notice that the United States won its first medal in the ice dancing event in thirty years? As you shake your head no, you are probably also scratching your head asking, "What is ice dancing anyway?" Well, I did not know either until I looked it up. It is, however, a form of figure skating which draws from ballroom dancing. Just visualize "Dancing with the Stars" and "Skating with the Stars" combined into one. Yes, agonizing isn't it? Honestly, and all apologies to Lilly Pixly, but I just do not find figure skating appealing. I'll give the competitors credit for their hard work and effort, but it's just not a spectator sport for all ages.

It kind of reminds me of band here at Homestead. Yes, the members spend hundreds of hours perfecting a choreographed routine with music. They work very hard for months and months. I would not want to spend that kind of time in the rain and snow, but there are a few hundred participants here at Homestead who would. They have my respect for that. However, you have to like music that is not rap or rock to enjoy a band competition. Much of the same happens with figure skating. You have to enjoy watching people skate around a rink doing twirls and loops to the beat of a song you have probably never heard of.

These are both 'niche sports' to Americans; one of the biggest downfalls of the Olympics these days. This is not to say that other countries do not enjoy the Olympics, because frankly, I know they do. They have a reason to believe in the Olympics because for some countries, that is all they have. They do not have the NHL or the NBA like we do. They do not have sporting leagues that are known world-wide like us. They have their great athletes, and that is it. For some of these countries and their athletes, it is like winning the super bowl to beat an American competitor or a British competitor. These two countries seemingly rule the world over some of the smaller countries attending the Olympics. It is a special honor to them to best someone like us. For us Americans, however, it seems like no skin off our back if we win or lose. People these days will not remember if you won a medal ten years later. Back in 1980 when the men's hockey team beat the Soviets in the 'Miracle on Ice', it was pure bliss.

Americans nation-wide celebrated the victory (more so as a political victory during the coldest time of the cold war, but as victory none the less). These days, beating the Russians is no big deal because there are no more rivalries for the Americans.

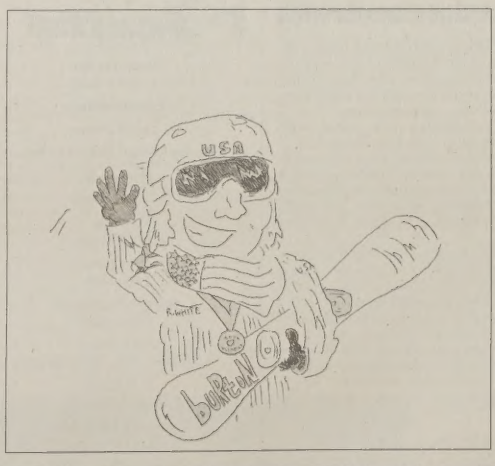
The Olympics just do not have the passion as they once did for American viewers. No one wants to chant "USA…USA" from their living room where no one will hear them. Sure, it would probably be entertaining to go see the Olympics in person for the experience per-se, but as much as I hate to admit it, the Olympics have become about as boring as watching golf on T.V.

By the way, that horn just sounded again. Team U.S.A. lost 4-3 to Finland. They are going home without a medal.

What is that I hear you say?

You didn't care?

Oh, that's right. Sorry.



CARTOONS SHANE LUTTRELL

page 5
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homestead high school
4310 homestead road
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Sports

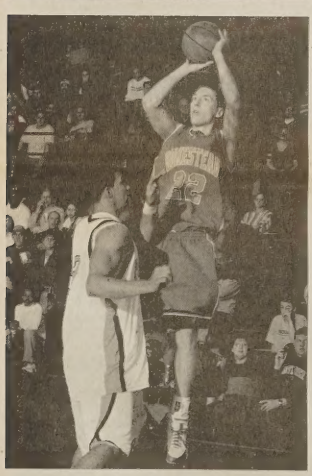
Aiming high

The girls swim team placed eighth at the state competition and the boys will look to place high at state this weekend. page 7

SECTIONAL STRUGGLE

Boys basketball makes a run at the sectional title despite a tough draw

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK



By Sam Van Horn
Writer

Losing two games straight, the boy's varsity basketball team is looking to turn things around with a win over the South Side Archers in their first sectional game next Tuesday.

"We've been struggling from the field," Connor Meeks (11) said. "We're starting to hit our free throws, but we're still having problems shooting the ball."

Their last win came against the Norwell Knights Feb. 9 at home. After the first quarter of play, the score was tied at 14, and at the end of the half the Spartans had just a two point advantage.

Outscored in the third, they finally were able to come back and edge out the Knights 56-48. Jono Cobb (12) and Grant Leiendecker (12) led the team with a combined 40 points.

They also scored four three-pointers each, scoring eight of their team's nine. Free-throw shooting has been a problem of late, but they only missed one from the line the entire night.

"We were all playing well together," Cobb said. "That's what we need if we want to continue to win games."

They lost against the Elmhurst Trojans on the Feb. 15, and followed it up with another loss on the road to the Snider Panthers. The Spartans started off on the wrong foot, falling behind by 18 points at the end of the first half. They cut the lead to 12 by the end of the third but couldn't hold on, as they lost the game 79-58.

The leading scorer for the Spartans was Cobb with 19 points, and Kyle Leiendecker (11) was second with 11. G.Leiendecker, however, was held to just five points hitting only two shots from the field. He only had one three-pointer and was never able to get to the foul line during the game.

"We were taking good shots," Leiendecker said. "They just weren't on that night."

Their last game was on Wednesday against the Northrop Bruins. The Spartans' record is 13-6 heading into post-season play, and they will face the South Side Archers in the first round of the tournament.

These two teams faced each other at the start of the season. The Spartans were on the road at South Side for their fourth game of the year. They were able to win the game and will look to do the same next Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Top: Steve Clark (12) plays defense during the Snider game. Left: Grant Leiendecker (12) shoots. Above: Kyle Leiendecker puts in a lay up during the loss to Snider. They will play South Side Tuesday.

Wrestling season comes to an end

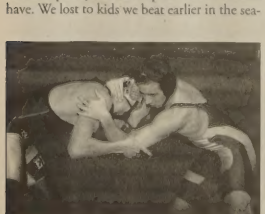
By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The boys varsity wrestling season officially came to an end on Feb. 18, at the state finals. The Spartans' Justin Wight (10) was the lone representative at the state meet.

Unfortunately, Wight lost in the opening round to the eventual state runner-up. This capped off a fairly successful season for the team, which had some high points throughout the regular season but ended with disappointment in the post season tournaments.

At the Northeast Hoosier Conference tournament, the guys came in with high expectations. It had been one of their goals throughout the season to compete at conference. However, the Spartans ended up in sixth place. The team was led by Wight, who won the 103 lb. division. Shane Ruckel (10) got second in the 135 lb. division. Derek Hackl (12) got second in the 130 lb. division.

"Conference did not go that well," Patrick Nagel (11) said. "We had some individuals that really stepped it up, but on the whole we wrestled poorly and not up to what we could have. We lost to kids we beat earlier in the season, kind of disappointing."



The next meet for the Spartans was the sectional tournament on Jan. 28, at New Haven. Once again, the guys did not wrestle to their full potential. They finished in third place, barely missing a spot at regionals. New Haven was first, followed by Snider. Hackl and Andrew Fahlsing (10) both were sectional champions. Ruckel also was a runner-up.

"More people did well than at conference, but there were some major disappointments," Nagel said. "Bill Bostain (11) and I had 23-11 records are now done for the season, so some upsets."

Although they did not advance as a team, several guys did advance individually. Grant Laird (11), Wight, Fahlsing, Kyle Carlson (11), Ruckel, Shane Nelson (11), Hackl, and Deryck Jefferies (12) advanced to the next level of the state tournament.

At the regional meet on Feb. 4, the team traveled to Carroll. Wight once again led the Spartans, getting second place to advance to semi-state. Hackle followed up by getting third and also advancing to semi state. Carlson rounded out the group of guys that would advance to semi-state by getting third. Ruckel and Fahlsing barely missed advancing, getting fourth place. Laird, Nelson, and Jeffries all lost in the first round.

Wight lost to Chris Lindauer of Edgewood, the eventual state runner up. Although the team did not advance as far as they would have liked, they were still represented well throughout the state tournament by individuals.

The team hopes to be better prepared for next season and knows what it will take throughout the off season to make sure that they can get where they want next season.

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Left: Derek Hackl (12) tries to place a Norwell wrestler in a hold. Hackl advanced to semi state for his second year in a row. Top: Shane Ruckel (11) prepares to slam his opponent to the mat. Ruckel placed fourth at regional. Above: Justin Wight (10) tries to free himself from a hold. Wight advanced to state.

Player Spotlight

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The boys' varsity wrestling team has been privileged to have several influential seniors on the team this year. During one's senior year, they are given greater responsibilities. They must be able to motivate the team and help lead the team throughout the season no matter what circumstances arise. Derek Hackl (12) has gone above and beyond.

Hackl began wrestling in 8th grade at Horizon Community Middle School in Aurora, Colorado. He moved to Fort Wayne before his freshman year and has been on the wrestling team for four years. Derek is also involved in National Honor Society, track, and orchestra.

Hackl was one of the team's most consistent wrestlers throughout the season. He started off with a long unbeaten streak, and didn't let down as the season went on. Hackl advanced all the way to semi-state the past two seasons. One of his most memorable moments during his career was during his junior season when he Snider. It was the opening match of the season and it came down to the last match of the night, Hackl's. He won in overtime and the team rushed the mat and carried him off.

Hackl stepped up to be one of the leaders during the season for the team.

"The team was pretty self sufficient," Hackl said. "I made sure everyone got warmed up for practice and meets. I tried to help the younger guys who were struggling. I felt like I had a lot of knowledge to pass on."

The rest of the wrestling team has also noticed how much Hackl helped the team this season.

"Throughout the season, our team could always count on Derek," Henry Shine (11) said. "Whenever we were in a dual meet and hit a cold streak, Derek would always help get us started on the right track.

Throughout his four years of wrestling, Hackl's hard work was evident. During his freshman year he went 0-3. Sophomore season he was 6-12. Junior year he was 24-11. Finally, during his senior year he was 30-4.

On the right track

Shenfeld has bright outlook on boys' upcoming track season

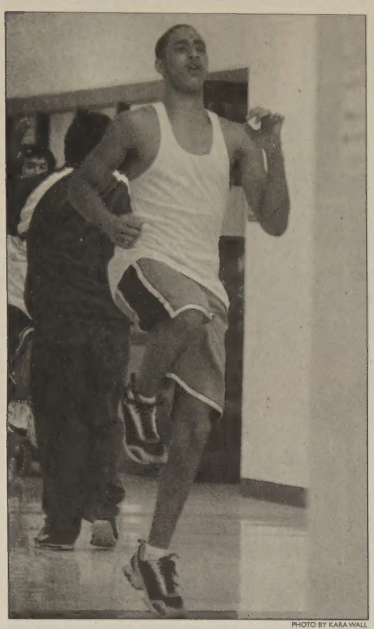


PHOTO BY KARA WALL

By Laura Summers
Writer

For the past 31 years, Dick Shenfeld has been the head coach for the boys track and field team. With his ample amount of experience, he is hoping to lead this year's team to a conference victory for the second year in a row.

With the conditioning that has been going on three times-a-week since December, full daily practices began Feb. 13. Different events bring about different forms of training for the boys on the team.

At first, the team began with basic weight lifting and running. Also, exercises known as plyometrics (plyos for short) are helping the team strengthen leg muscles. Some of these movements include running down a line doing knee-lifts and butt-kicks, as well as lunges.

> *"Of course, my goal, as well as every member of the team's goal, is to win the NHC title. I'm also hoping to get as many kids to the state meet as possible."*
>
> Dick Shenfeld
> Boys' Track Coach

As practices become more defined, the athletes in different events will concentrate more on their specialties, such as pole vaulting, long and high jump, shot put, discus, sprints, and distance running.

"Of course, my goal, as well as every member of the team's goal, is to win the NHC title. I'm also hoping to get as many kids to the state meet as possible," Shenfeld said.

When asked about the strongest events in this year's team, Shenfeld commented that the mid-distance and distance events were "pretty solid." Actually, he feels that the entire team is quite strong this season.

"While there are a few key injuries we need to get over, the team has some strong leaders like K-Sam Perkins (12) and Hunter Hall (11) in their respective events. The pole vault event should be solid with guys like [Hall] and Dave Blake (11)," Shenfeld said.

In comparison to last year, the throwers of this year's team are much stronger.

The indoor season began last weekend on Feb. 18 at Anderson University. Following this first meet are meets at Huntington College and Huntington high school, with the state-qualifying meet at Purdue on March 11. The indoor season will come to a close on March 18 with the NSR Indoor Track State Finals. The outdoor season begins directly after that, with that first meet to be held on March 22. While the indoor and outdoor seasons are quite similar, there are a few slight differences. The sprinting and hurdling events tend to be shorter indoors, with 55-meter races as opposed to the 110-meter events outside. There is also no discus event at the indoor meets.

Times are often slower for the indoor running events. The track is shorter so more laps must be run, which leads to slower times. On the other hand, field events can sometimes be better inside due to the absence of wind resistance. Shenfeld thoroughly enjoys his position, and he is proud of what each member of the team accomplishes throughout the season.

"The best part of this sport is that it's an individual one. You get out whatever it is that you put into it. Nobody gets cut from the team, and there's no resentment for not getting put into the game," Shenfeld said.

"These athletes can't rely on others to do their job. If they work hard, these guys should see the results. I hope that their dedication to the sport spills over into other things like their academics. Watching them succeed makes me enjoy being a coach."

UPCOMING INDOOR MEETS

Feb. 25
Huntington College
March 4
Huntington High School
March 11
State Qualifying Meet @ Purdue
March 18
Indoor State Finals

PHOTO BY KARA WALL

Top: Chris Alexander (12) does high knees to warm his muscles for plyometrics. Above: Senior girls lead the track team in an excercise.

Lack of players does not hurt gymnastics

By Megan Miller
Writer

Gymnastics is a sport of concentration and focus. This year's team considers these characteristics their specialty. The team might have lost eight seniors, who were all great gymnasts, but they can't focus on the past; they have to focus on the present and this is exactly what these girls are doing. Their main losses were Shelley Toth and Vicki Toth. Shelley Toth was named first team All-Conference in 2005 and Vicki Toth was named second team All-Conference in 2005.

The obstacle for this year is having only five girls on the team. Very few freshmen girls went out for the team this year. Only two freshmen girls are on the team.

"This year is going great so far," Kelsey Amstutz (9) said. "I'm making new friends and all the girls are fun to be around. I am also learning a lot of new routines and enjoy the higher level of competition. Since my middle school didn't have a team, this is my first year being on a school team and so far, I love it." Dana Droes (11) is a key to the success of this year's team. She is the best all-around gymnast on the team.

"This has been a tough year for us," Droes said. "With not having many girls on the team, it has allowed the girls that are on the team to step up and do the best we can do. I hope I do well at all the competitions I've been preparing for. Gymnastics is such a team sport, though it might not seem like one. It takes every girl to do well, for our team to win."

"This year's team has a lot of talent and I am going to do the best that I can as a coach to make sure we are prepared," coach Envoy said.

With practice everyday, it will give the girls the readiness they need in order to compete. They practice Monday through Friday from 5-7 PM. Then on Friday, they practice from 3-5 PM. Instead of practicing in the upstairs of the Homestead gym like years past, they have moved practices and meets to the Freshmen Academy.

The four events that take place at every gymnastic meet are the floor routine, bars, beam and the vault. Kristin Chenoweth (10) focuses mostly on her floor routine. "I'd say the hardest part of my routine is my full twisting layout," Chenoweth said.

The team had a meet Monday against Concordia; however, they lost, but they received their best score. Their next meet, which is a home meet, is Tuesday, verses East Noble. Then the team is off to compete at sectionals in two weeks. They have overcome many obstacles and remain positive towards their next meets.

New season begins for lacrosse club

By Luke Chase
Writer

One of the fastest foot sports around, lacrosse has increased in popularity at Homestead and the team is preparing for what they hope will be a phenomenal season. Preparing for their second season, the team hopes their hard work will pay off in many competition successes.

This club sport is, in many aspects, just as demanding as some of Homesteads school sports and is played by many players of other Homestead sports during the off-season.

The team is currently preparing for their first game coming up on March 18th. Last year the teams biggest rival was Bishop Luers said Tyler Freeland (12).

"Hopefully we'll have a winning record and hopefully we'll make the playoffs," said Freeland (12) about the upcoming season.

The team has been practicing every day from 3:45 until 5:45 behind the fire station.

The team is pulling together well and team captain Colin Knapp (12) has high hopes for the season.

"The whole team is starting to look real good," said Knapp (12). The new players are learning fast and the varsity team is "amazing".

High school lacrosse has four major positions, the attack, midfielder, defensemen, and goalie. The object of the game is to shoot a small rubber ball into the opponents goal using sticks with nets attached to the end. A high school game generally consists of four 12 minute quarters in a 48 minute game.

Last year Homestead's lacrosse team's home games were played at the Chapel but this year the team will be playing on the Homestead soccer fields.

Lacrosse has increased in popularity steadily since its introduction to American society by Native Americans. The sport was used to solve tribal disputes, heal the sick, and develop the young tribal men in many Native American cultures.

Although it is a club sport, it is rather pricey. Every player plays a $175 registration fee and fundraises for the team. Fund raising consists of selling adds to local businesses.

Homestead lacrosse has two teams of ten players, one varsity and one reserve team. The first game is March 18 against LaPorte High School.

UPCOMING GAMES

March 25, away, Westfield
March 25, away, Pike
April 15, home, Brebent Jesuit
April 15, home, Guerin
April 22, home, Lafayette
April 22, home, St. Joseph
April 26, home, Snider
April 29, home, Ham. Southeastern
May 6, away, Zionsville
May 10, home, Bishop Luers

Participation in rugby increases

By David Greco
Writer

Rugby has recently gained much acclaim in the past year despite its existence at Homestead for several years. In addition to its relation to many other sports, rugby is beginning to rise in popularity among Homestead's top club sports. Rugby ,is both a boys' and girls' sport that, in both, requires a certain amount of drive and dynamism in each player. Even though rugby requires very little protection equipment-wise, players still go out with the effort required. Most importantly, there is no shortage of players on this year's roster.

Friends who play the sport have a strong influence on incoming rugby players.

"When one of my friends got interested in rugby, I was almost instantly drawn into the sport," Andy Wilson (11) said. Upon entering the sport, many students get captivated by rugby.

"Once you start playing the game, you just cannot stop," Katie Mahara (12), who is on her fifth year of playing rugby, said. "It's like you're addicted."

Originating in Europe, rugby has quickly grown recently in the United States. Two teams consisting of thirteen players attempt to score a "try," getting the ball past the opposing teams goal line, or a field goal. Each team gets six chances to score as the attacking team, the team with the ball. Each time the attacking team is tackled, they lose one chance. The fields are around 100 meters long (to each "tryline") and 68 meters wide. The game is closely related to other sports such a soccer and football, which draws in many of these players since it is as springtime sport. Since more and more students are becoming aware of rugby at Homestead, many have signed up in comparison to last season.

"Last year, we had a really low amount of players," Brennen Callaghan (11) said. "We couldn't trade out players and it was really a problem."

> *"Once you start playing the game (rugby), you just cannot stop."*
>
> Katie Mahara (12)
> Girls Rugby Player

Last year, the boys' rugby team did not win one game but, since they have a larger team, anticipate a better year. About 16 total players made up the team a year ago, while 25 have signed up this year. The boys' team has coaches Randy Harding and Gabe Lopez to assist them during practices on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

This year, the girls' team has around 30 players and they practice with Coach Eckler, who has been a part of Homestead Rugby for seven years, and Assistant Coaches Crystal Schlarb, Jenna Salamone, and Liz Olsen, who all played under Eckler. They practice on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays as well with an optional practice on Thursdays. Last year, they had a winning season and anticipate a successful season.

"We set the standard for the state on how women's rugby is played," coach Lindsay Eckler said. "Some people think girls can't play rugby, but we come out and do great because we work well as a team and like a big family."

Although the athletes' have excitement while playing rugby, there are risks in the game. The most protection rugby players usually get is a mouthpiece and a shirt even though the game revolves around hard-hitting tackles. Yet, the players and coaches expect the team to be tough and aggressive.

"We're going to try and win as many games as we can this year," Wilson said.

"I just love the sport and know we're going to work hard," Jessica Bruce (12) said.

This year's rugby team members and coaches anticipate a successful season. The Homestead Rugby Teams plans on playing against Warsaw, Penn, Clay, Bishop Dwenger, South Bend teams, Carmel, and several other Indianapolis teams.

Boys' home games taking place next to the YMCA start on March 25th and girls' home games used to take place next to the YWCA but now at Indian Trails start on March 18.

State: girls place; boys swim tonight

By Tim Clark
Writer

For the girls swim and dive team, an eighth place finish at state left a few questions to be answered. Ranked sixth in state at the end of the regular season, the girls hoped to be a bigger force in the state competition. Although they fought hard, they were unable to match the likes of state champion Carmel, which won its 20th straight title. Although coach Chad Englehart does not call the eighth place finish a disappointment he does say that he had hoped for a better showing.

"We had higher expectations," Englehart said. "I think the girls gave a great effort but I think there were things we would have liked to have done better. We were just a little tight and a little apprehensive. We were not relaxed and we did not play our 'A' game per-se."

The swimmers agree that this year's state finish was a setback to their goals, but also noted that this team is young and has a lot of room for improvement.

"I thought our team was capable of a higher finish," Jessica Skiba (11) said. "Given the swims that we had I think an eighth place finish was very lucky. The swims that we had then on Saturday; we tried to make the best out of them and that is how we got our eighth place finish. I think we are disappointed to a point but we have a very young team so I think this experience will help us for next year."

The expectation now is that improvement for next season can take place, especially with the majority of the swimmers returning next year.

"We have got a lot of talent coming back," Englehart said. "If you look at it this way: we had 14 girls that swam at the state meet this year and 11 of them are coming back. I think that is very exciting."

In a season where the girls hung around the top ten in the state, continually winning meet after meet, there was much to be pleased with; despite the unexpected finish at state. There were many highlights to the girls' season that Englehart enjoyed.

"We won a number of meets," Englehart said. "We competed very well. We were ranked extremely high all season long. Our final performance was not our best performance but I think overall it was a very successful year."

Along with the great season Homestead's girls had, coach Englehart said this year's seniors were some of the best seniors, in terms of leadership, that he has seen.

"We had great senior leadership," Englehart said. "I would like to applaud them. We had some great seniors."

While the girl's season has come to an end, the boys are just getting ready for the trek towards state supremacy. As they have done nearly all year, the boys dominated another swim meet, this time it was the sectional tournament at the SACS Natatorium inside Summit Middle School. The boys ran away with the sectional title, scoring 452 points as opposed to second place Norwell's 189. Despite their domination of the competition, some of the swimmers believe that there are some holes to fill and some mistakes to fix.

"There were a few events that we probably could have done a little bit better in but I think we did a really good job overall," Brendan O'Hara (12) said. "We're going to try and do better than we did last weekend, fix all of the mistakes that we made, and hopefully either get first or second (at state)."

If there were mistakes, they did not seem to show during the sectional as Homestead is sending their entire sectional team to the state meet this weekend at the Indiana University Natatorium on the IUPUI campus.

PHOTOS ZACH HEBOR

The girls swim team huddles together during the state competition meet as the girls show their team spirit and support each other in their races.

"We had a nice sectional," Englehart (who also helps coach the boys) said. "We got a lot of kids out, but we are hoping to have our best meet next weekend."

Despite their major successes in the sectional, the team believes that beating out North Central for the state championship will be a tall order to follow.

Given this, Englehart has expressed to his swimmers and divers not to worry about North Central but to focus on their own performances.

"I think that it would be a stretch (to place first), but I'm really not sure because this week we are mostly trying to concentrate on our own swims and not worry about what other people are doing," O'Hara said. "I think we will work more towards that on Saturday instead of now."

Englehart agrees that Homestead's does not count out the possibility that the team could beat North Central.

"I think they have a chance, but I think North Central is definitely the heavy favorite," Englehart said. "If we come to the state meet and we have our best meet, having performed at our best ability, then we will be right there with North Central. I think that is our number one goal: to focus on what we are going to do. I do not think we need (North Central) to make a mistake or anything else. We just need to come in and show them our best meet."

In closing, Englehart believes that the boys have had an extremely successful season this year displaying that Homestead is still a powerhouse when it comes to swimming and diving in the state.

"It was a good year," Englehart said. "We swam very well. We have beaten everyone except North Central all season long so it is just a matter of time to get over that last hump and take them down."

1. Kelly Johnson (12) starts a race. 2. Members of the swim team joint in cheering for a teammate during a race. 3. Johnson takes a breath during a race. 4. Coach Englehart talks to Johnson after her race.

BY THE NUMBERS

BOYS TEAM

452 the boys' score at their last meet

189 their closest competition

1st or 2nd the boys hope to finish in either one

GIRLS TEAM

20th straight state title for Carmel girls

14 girls who competed at state

11 returning girls

8th place finish at state

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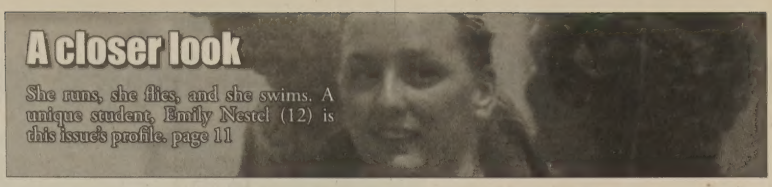


A closer look

She runs, she flies, and she swims. A unique student, Emily Nestel (12) is this issue's profile. page 11

SACS Dansguard
http://www.myspace.com/
PhotoTracker - Login http://nytimes.com/ Apple Amazon eBay Yahoo! News
MySpace.com | Home
The Web MySpace
Search
Help | SignUp
a place for friends
With the increase in popularity of blogs and web pages such as myspace.com, many students do not realize that:
Home | Browse | Search | Invite | Rank | Mail | Blog | Favorites | Forum | Groups | Events | Games | Music | Classifieds

MY SPACE ISN'T JUST YOUR SPACE

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

The Internet has provided teenagers with a continuously changing method for social interaction. This networking began with Emails, which evolved into instant message, and then into MySpace. The teens you once would see at the mall and the movies are now spending hours daily at home on the Internet checking out other's MySpaces. MySpace provides high school and college students with a method to meet new people that they might not have been able to in their everyday life.

MySpace, and others such as Facebook, are websites that allows users to personally create and design their own page. These pages allow users to post personal profiles, digital pictures, and leave comments on other "friends'" sites. Users try to make their sites intriguing to others cruising through the network. A "friend" is someone that leaves a direct link on your MySpace to his or her own. These friends talk about activities that occur in and out of school.

"MySpace gives me an opportunity to talk to friends of mine that live out of state," Brandon Chaffee (10) said. "I spend a lot of time updating my MySpace, adding pictures and changing my default music." These special effects give teens a sense of individuality and their own "space" where they are in complete control.

Parents and school officials however, worry about the amount of personal information being displayed on the Internet and who has access to it. "All of the website laws allow the public access to read what's out there," said Officer Pape. This brings into question information that some students feel could, and has been, used against them. Who's to say that the information posted is even true?

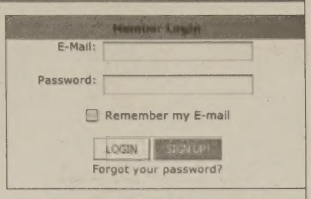
Websites are accessible to anyone that has access to the Internet. It is feasible that parents, school officials, coaches and even employers could be reading the information that someone has posted on their site, "Even though I do not have a MySpace, I do not feel that a school has the right to read these profiles. What you say and do on your own time should not be used against you," Greg Kyes-Myland (10) said. There is no way to prevent anyone from reading your site since there is no fee to join. Membership for MySpace is increasing at a rate of five million people a month and as of November 2005 there were 26.7 million members.

Students in high school differ on their feelings regarding who should be reading the profiles of MySpace members. "If the information is publicly posted then the school has just as much of a right as anyone to read what is there," Phil Carroll (11) said. The site has created concern for many users because of the typical information and pictures posted. Some of the pictures involve students partying and partaking in various illegal activities.

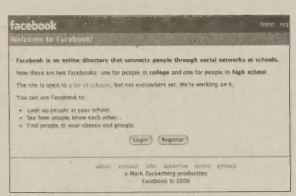
"If a student posts information on the Internet, then that information becomes public domain. This is the danger of the Internet," Jim Schmidt, Social Studies teacher, said.

Students often are aware of the possibility of this danger but blow off their concerns. They become so involved in the network that they often post revealing personal information.

"This is not a diary that you keep at home. There are no checks and balances on the Internet. An administrator, coach, teacher, or employer can read the site and ask questions," Jim Schmidt said. "Remember what is posted on the Internet can possibly be used against you."



OTHER POPULAR WEBSITES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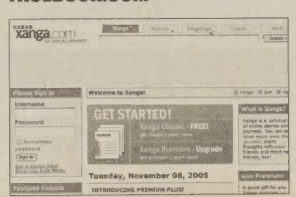

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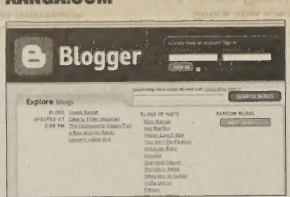

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Latex poses grave danger to those allergic

By Erin Quinn
Writer

Crayons, rubber bands, foam balls, playground cones, rubber gloves, grapes, mouse pads, grocery store checkout mats, balloons, allergic reactions, and Homestead High School. The common link?

Latex.

The official latex policy of the school, as stated in the handbook, prohibits latex balloons from the school or any school sponsored events. For unknowing students, this merely means the absence of traditional balloons at prom and reminders to bring non-latex gloves to biology class on days of dissections.

However, everyone around the facility should be aware that even the touch of a LiveStrong band (which contains latex) or the presence of latex in the air or environment could cause some people to have an extreme allergic reaction.

SYMPTOMS OF A LATEX ALLERGY

If an allergic person comes into contact with latex, symptoms may include:

- Skin rashes
- Hives
- Itchy or watery eyes
- Runny nose
- Redness where contact with the latex was made
- Swelling of the face and hands

"Woodside [Middle School] has gone latex-free because they had sensitive students," Quigley said. "And now those students have graduated and are here. When there are people with a life-threatening condition at the school, exposing them to latex is not an option."

The durable, flexible, and natural material known as latex is used frequently in many different products, because of its relatively low manufacturing costs. Health care settings (hospitals, dental offices, physicians' offices, and health care clinics) traditionally contain many latex based products and equipment. Gloves, urinary catheters, and dental dams all contain latex. In places where latex gloves are being put on and removed frequently, the air may contain many latex particles. Because of their high, almost constant exposure to latex, health care works seem to have the highest risk for developing a latex allergy (www.wedmd.com).

Similarly, health care patients whose regular care involves latex have a higher risk of having an allergy. People who have many operations in childhood, like those with disabilities such as spina bifida or cerebral palsy, are also more likely to develop an allergy.

Although latex allergies occur in about 5-10% of the population, anyone can become allergic to latex. Beth Quigley, school nurse, emphasized that latex allergies can be very serious, especially to an unsuspecting person.

"Someone who is latex sensitive can have a life-threatening allergic reaction without any warning. It is possible to avoid latex if you know that you are allergic, but if you have never had previous symptoms, you won't have any idea of what might happen," Quigley said.

A serious reaction, known as an anaphylactic shock, may have symptoms like drop in blood pressure, rapid heart rate, swelling of the throat, wheezing (caused by blocking of airways), and flushing of the face.

TURIN - 2006

Students voice their opinions on the 2006 winter Olympic games

Despite disappointing viewership, some students remain interested; ice skating favorite of most

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

For 80 years, the winter Olympics have served as the biggest stage in sports for many winter-sport athletes. Every four years, the best snow boarders, curlers, ice skaters, and lugers pack up and make their way to such locations as Nagano, Japan, Salt Lake City, Utah, and this year, Turin, Italy. And for 17 days, select media outlets provide nonstop coverage of events taking place half a world away.

But recently, the news has been dominated by the lack of viewers for this year's games. Experts have delivered numerous reasons for Americans deciding to not tune in. They say the fact that the games are so far away from home and that there are no live, prime time events broadcasted in the states have hurt the ratings. Because most people know what happened before it comes on television, they don't see much of a point in watching.

Also, experts say the lack of star power has hurt as well. With such American stars as Bode Miller and Michelle Kwan either not performing well or out of the competition altogether, there are not any recognizable names for people to relate to. A final reason for the poor ratings, experts say, is the obscurity of the sports. Curling and luge, although sanctioned as official sports, are not common in the United States, and thus Americans are not inclined to watch them. The only popular United States sport that is present at the Olympics is hockey, and both the men's and women's teams have failed to meet expectations this season.

Despite many Americans choosing to not watch the Olympics, some students have taken interest in this year's games.

"Yes, I do watch the Olympics. I watch the ice skating portion of it because I do some ice skating recreationally. I have ice skated since I was five years old. I enjoy this cold whether so it seemed fun at the time and still is," Omar Nader (10) said.

Several other students said they enjoyed the ice skating portion of the Olympics.

I like to watch ice skating. It's really fun. I haven't really watched it that much this year, but I am going to because women's singles is beginning soon," Mandy Armstrong (12) said.

Armstrong also said she was intrigued by curling, although she didn't watch it on a daily basis.

"I watch the skating portion because it is really fun to watch and I can appreciate how difficult it is for the couples to synchronize their routines like they do. It's really cool when they nail their routine," Megan Farmer (11) said.

A few Homestead students can even say they have aspirations of once going to the Olympics. Although she would not be competing in the winter games if she were to make the Olympic team one day, Kate Veith (11) says she is motivated by the Winter Olympics.

"It definitely makes me excited to watch it because I can imagine what it would be like to go one day… It makes we want to work harder seeing the U.S. team performing and winning gold medals," Veith said.

Christine Hansen (11) was involved in ice-skating for years. She still runs a clinic for children at the McMillen Ice Rink. She said she was motivated to watch the games because she herself ice skated for years. She feels the most important event in ice skating this year was when Michelle Kwan dropped out.

"I was very upset when [Michelle] Kwan pulled out of the Olympics because her replacement has no experience and is not up to the same level as Kwan is," Hansen said.

Fake IDs add up to real punishment

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

Fake IDs are actually quite easy to get. A search for them on the internet, turned up several pages of different web sites that demonstrate how to make the best ones, or which printers work the best or where individuals could get them made for the cheapest price.

"I think they're fairly easy to come by, and if someone wanted one bad enough, they could definitely get one," Tyler Lambert (11) said.

"I never had a fake ID, and I cannot think of any of my friends that had one. I have older brothers, so I am sure they probably would have had connections," Shawn Hackness said.

"I know some people that have fake IDs. I think they are pretty easy to come by," Joey Parker (11) said.

In the background on a real identification card, there are holograms of the state seal. Fake IDs cannot get the holograms, so that is the one and only way to tell the difference between the real and the fake cards.

When going into clubs, bouncers usually put IDs under a black light to make sure the hologram is there. Everything else on the ID can easily be printed on and changed so it will say whatever you want.

"The old IDs were easier to use to produce fake ids," officer A.J. Pape said.

With the old ID cards, you could just cut through the plastic and make the changes with a pen or marker and then put it back together. Now, you have to scratch through the hard plastic to make the changes, which makes it very obvious to see where the changes were made.

"I have a fake ID. Most of my friends are older, so they helped me get it. They knew someone that was a security guy at a club so they had him look for someone that looked like me. The security guy took his ID and now I just use it," an senior who did not disclose his name, for obvious reasons.

If a student is caught with a fake ID, it is considered a class C offense. He or she can receive a fine of up to $500, along with any other charges authorizes may be able to give (minor consumption). If a student are caught making or selling fake IDs, it is a class C misdemeanor. Not only can a student get fined up to $500, but he or she can also spend up to 60 days in jail.

Students all have different opinions when it comes to having a fake ID.

"I think that fake IDs are a good idea because they give kids a lot more freedom," Dan Borman (12) said.

"I know two people who have fake IDs, they are real IDs but they are just not the person who has them. One of them found the ID and the picture looked like him, so he uses it to buy cigars. I think they are pointless, I wouldn't need one for anything," Katie Peterson (10) said.

"Fake IDs are dumb. They just give kids more chances to get caught doing something wrong," Taylor Klinzer (12) said.

"Kids in this country have enough freedoms already. I don't think they need an ID that says they are older than what they actually are because it will just lead to trouble," Hackness said.

"I think that if you're desperate enough to waste a ton of money on it or if you're clever enough to make one that actually looks decent and you can use it, then you deserve to be able to drink. I mean kids are going to drink underage whether they are in a bar or not so, it is not decreasing the number of underage drinkers too much," Hannah Smith (11) said.

"I know a few people that do have fake ids, and I don't think it is necessarily the right thing, but it is not my place to worry about it," Lambert said. "If someone has one, I am not going to bother them or turn them in for having it. It is their business. It is a choice that is just up for each person."

The school's policy is the same as the law itself: fake IDs are an illegal breach of the law. Those who use fake IDs are almost exclusively interested in illegal activity for their age, and thus are subject to drug testing policy as well.

Students set aside time for SAT preparation

By David Greco
Writer

Standardized tests are dreaded by many students since they take hours of preparation and are usually necessary for success in college. One of the most recognized of these tests is the SAT. Last month, numerous students from Homestead took the SAT.

For nearly a century, this test has been taken by millions of students and, quite recently, has been changed to meet new standards. As a result, because of the importance of this examination, students are becoming increasingly aware of preparation steps for the SAT.

The SAT came about several decades ago because the College Board needed a test that could help in choosing college bound students. In 1933, the president of Harvard decided to start a new scholarship program for academically gifted students.

In 1948, the Educational Testing Service was founded and the SAT was on track to becoming the basic college admissions test for millions of students.

The test was liked because the College Board said it measured pure intelligence. Since the test is based around the intelligence of the test taker, students are feeling pressure to work harder to prepare for the SAT.

Classes that prep students for the SAT made available at school are relieving this pressure.

"The test wasn't as hard as I anticipated," Courtney Waters (11) said. "Because of my English and etymology classes, I could eliminate choices that I knew were wrong."

Along with these courses, students can take practice tests to simulate the actual SAT.

"I took around five practice tests before I got to this one," Stephania Turkette (11) said. "That really made the test less of a burden."

The SAT is designed to assess how well a student analyzes and solves problems, these skills are expected to have been learned in school and use in college. The SAT is generally taken by high school juniors and seniors.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200 to 800, this includes two subscores of grammar and content for the essay. This test is distributed seven times a year in the U.S. and six times a year in other countries.

The SAT has three sections that include a critical reading, math, and writing section.

Two changes that were applied in recent years are the addition of the 25-minute essay and the elimination of analogies ("a leaf is to a tree as a petal is to a ?").

There are six 25-minute sections that can appear in any order, as well as two 20-minute sections. Test takers sitting next to each other in the same testing session may have test books with entirely different sections.

There are many internet sites where the SAT can be taken and books on the SAT by the Princeton Review are readily available to students. Review sessions are held at school each year to make sure that each student has the opportunity to adequately prepare.

"I really don't mind the test too much, even though it's really long," Hari Vasu (11) said. "All of the preparation made me do really well on the test."

While many students are not excited to take the SAT, the overall importance of this and several other standardized tests is shown through the fact that the SAT is accepted by most colleges in the United States as a test to evaluate a student's level of academic excellence. Another test students plan to take is the ACT, which will be administered in June

DECA students travel to Indy for state competition

By Megan Miller
Writer

DECA: the association for students and teachers of marketing, management and entrepreneurship. Sixty students will pack their bags and head off to Indianapolis to the DECA state convention starting Feb. 26-28. These business students will stay in the Marriot in downtown Indy; they mean business. The cost is $165.

"I love doing DECA…I feel the kids learn so much and state is always so much fun," Brian McNeal, the DECA coordinator for Homestead, said.

The trip starts Feb. 26, with a bus ride south, to Indianapolis. From there, the students register and then the advisor meetings take place. This trip is not all about fun and games. Next, the participants must take a 100-question test about the event they will participate in the next day.

Dinner is followed by the opening general session. This is when guest speakers of companies and manufacturers come and talk to the students about marketing, the management of large companies and more.

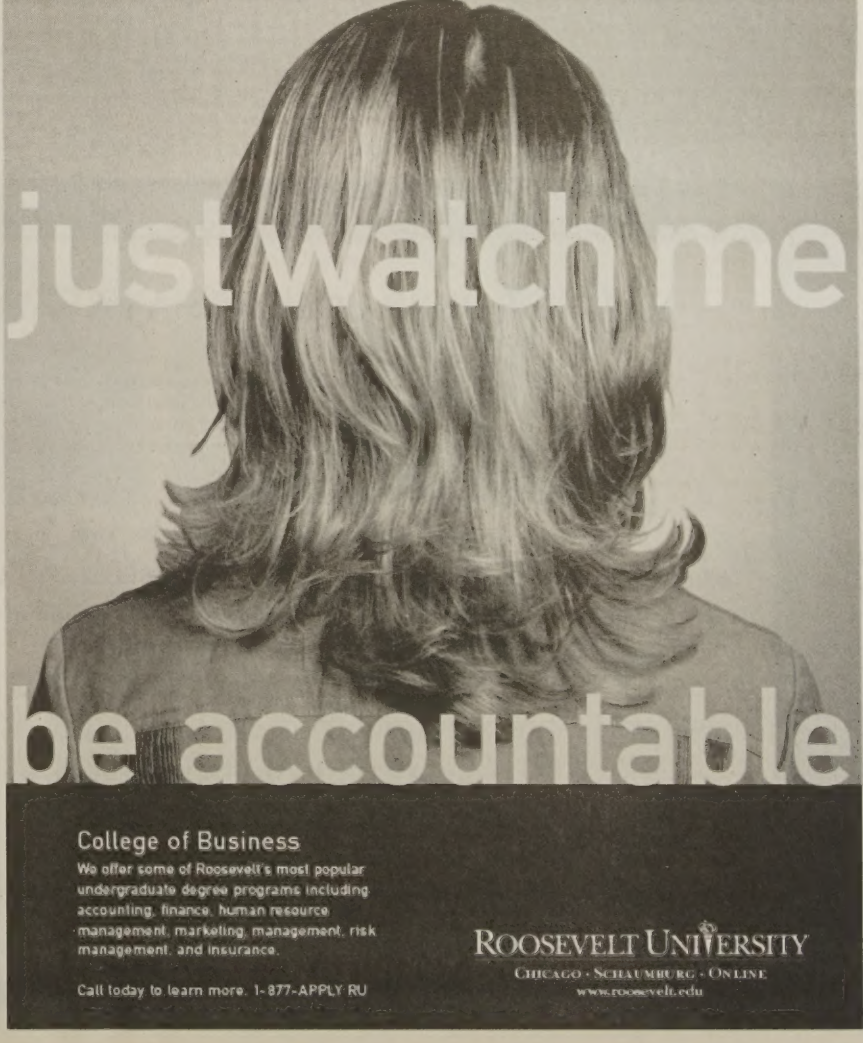
The dress for this convention is everything but casual. And so it should be, only to get the full effect of attending a 'real' business conference. Boys must wear a shirt and tie, or a "DECA suit," which consists of a dark navy blue suit with the DECA emblem on the left chest.

Monday is a time for events, which are presented in front of judges. There are over 30 events in which the students may participate in, some easier than others. "It was just an honor to make it to State. I know it will be so much fun. I just hope I do well," said Nishi Patel (12).

One event, such as the accounting applications will consist of a 10-minute presentation to the judges. Before the presentation, the student/group of students will be given a prompt, which will tell you what you must present. "DECA is a great opportunity to learn more about business and learn about all the business opportunities there are," DECA President Sarah Jones (11) said.

This convention being mostly made up women, it is a great opportunity to learn more about business and have an idea in mind of a job they are considering in the future. About 8,000-10,000 people will be attending this conference in Indy, 70% being women.

And so then the business 'deals' close on Tuesday, starting with a breakfast, and awards soon after. And when 11:00 AM rolls around, the students take the bus ride home, full of more knowledge of ideas, promotion, organization and business on the brain.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Poor script and boring plot doom Harrison Ford's film, 'Firewall'

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Jack Stanfield (Harrison Ford) has spent his entire adult life trying to protect a major Seattle bank from the most sophisticated hackers and thieves. In doing so, Stanfield has built a nearly fool-proof security system that has made the bank's network nearly untouchable from the outside. Aside from his job, Jack has a gorgeous lakeside house, a sleek Cadillac, and a "super-mom" wife (Virginia Madsen) who not only juggles her architecture business but also plays stay-at-home-mom with the couple's two children.

On the verge of a monumental bank merger, Jack has plenty to worry about already, including keeping the bank's impotent new owner, Gary Mitchell (Robert Patrick), from compromising the bank's loyalty to its thousands of customers. So when a stranger shows up at the bank claiming that Jack owes an internet gambling site $95,000, Jack passes the nuisance off as an inconvenience, unaware that his identity has been compromised in a very dangerous way.

That night, business partner Harry Romano (Robert Forster) introduces Jack to Bill Cox (Paul Bettany), a prospective client. After the meeting, Cox hops in Jack's car and pulls a gun on him, accompanying him home where the rest of the Stanfields have already been taken hostage by Cox's accomplices. It turns out that Cox knows everything about the Stanfield's, from their bank account numbers to Jack's son's food allergies.

Soon, the hostiles reveal their intentions: they plan on stealing $100,000,000 from the bank's 10,000 richest clients, all without touching a single bill. Jack is their inside man; they intend on forcing him to move the money to an account of their own. With the lives of his family at stake, Jack races against time to come up with a way to break his own security system.

But Jack soon realizes that Cox and his cronies do not plan on letting the Stanfields go alive, and he begins a desperate attempt to turn the tables on the hostiles.

Though it is relatively predictable and unoriginal, Firewall has its bright spots, most notably performances by Harrison Ford and 24 star Lynn Rajskub. Rajskub's character, Janet Stone, is Jack's secretary and plays a key role in the latter half of the film.

Though it is tension-filled and explosive, Firewall also fails to tie up numerous loose ends and viewers are left scratching their heads once the credits role. We are unsure whether Harry was involved in the heist or not (he is murdered anyway, however). One of the hostiles shows a kind heart in the final minutes, but viewers are left unaware of what became of him (the other hostiles end up dead one way or another, but we never know of the one's fate). The final sequence of the film is extremely corny and awkward. It seemed as if the movie makers simply ran out of money and needed to end it abruptly. It was one of those movies where everyone in the theater just stayed in their seats, wondering if they had missed something.

At first glance, Firewall is an entertaining film, but it lacks all the intangibles (i.e. clever plot lines, interesting ending, etc.). It fails to tie up the loose ends and leaves the viewers wondering what became of certain characters. Despite some strong performances, Firewall fails to deliver anything I haven't already seen before.

O·A·R LIVE

Music reviewer Tyler Churchward travels to Michigan State University to see 'Of A Revolution'

By Tyler Churchward
Business Manager

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to see a concert up in East Lansing, Michigan, at Michigan State University, with some friends. The band we saw is O.A.R., and many of you have probably heard the song "That Was A Crazy Game of Poker", or maybe even "Hey Girl".

O.A.R., which stands for Of A Revolution, formed in 1998 at Ohio State University, but the band members are from Washington, D.C. O.A.R. is currently touring their newest release, Stories of a Stranger, which is a great album; O.A.R. keeps up the winning formula of party music with a hint of reggae that has won them fans across the country and the world.

The concert was, without a doubt, the best concert I have ever seen. Their opening act, The Exit, wasn't bad, but they aren't the same type of music as O.A.R. O.A.R. opened with "Love and Memories", which is the big hit from their album Stories of a Stranger, and one of my favorite songs by O.A.R. Next was "Dareh Meyod", which means "Tuesday's coming" in some foreign language, I'm not sure which language, though.

"Destination" followed after that, which is from one of their older albums and is a decent song. "One Shot", from their new album, has a nice reggae feel to it, and a saxophone in the background that combine to form a nice sound. O.A.R.'s saxophonist can really play; he played some great solos during the concert. "Right on Time" is another song with a good amount of saxophone, and it's really uplifting. "Black Rock" was their next song in the set, and is a very mellow, relaxing song, this is definitely a good song to listen to after a long, tough day.

Next was "The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy)", and to be honest, I really don't remember what this song was like, I had never heard it before the concert and it didn't stick out, so I guess that's telling you something. "City on Down….Delicate Few" had a great keyboard and drum solo (they were separate), but the song isn't as good as some of the others they played. "Lay Down" is a great song with an awesome rhythm.

Their next song wasn't even their own song, they covered U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday", and did an excellent job; Marc Roberge sounded very much like Bono (U2's singer). "Heard the World" is one of O.A.R.'s few songs that isn't upbeat, but the song has well-written lyrics.

When they started playing the intro to "That Was A Crazy Game of Poker", the crowd went nuts. I love this song, and this is the perfect song to see if you will like the rest of O.A.R.'s music. They went off the stage and said good night to us, but came back for an encore, and played two more songs. The first of the two was "Dakota", which I didn't really like that much. They closed with "Hey Girl", which caused the crowd to go insane again, they couldn't have picked a better song to close with.

Overall, O.A.R. put on a spectacular show, they did a good job of involving the fans and didn't rush through the concert or anything; the concert lasted for about three hours and The Exit only played for 45 minutes or so, so O.A.R. played for about two hours. If you ever get the chance to see O.A.R. in concert, do it, I guarantee a good time.

Pizza Hut remains the hometown favorite

By Annie Baenan and Tyler Churchward
Life Editor and Business Manager

PHOTO: ZACH HETRICK

Annie: Many students plan their Wednesday nights around going to Pizza Hut for a very cheap, filling, and quick meal. Wings is no longer the "hit" spot when compared to the price and quality of Pizza Hut's food. I figured it would be a mad house when we arrived at 6:15, but we were seated immediately in the cozy downstairs room. The tables were clean and all of the employees were very friendly. Pizza Hut is dimly lit by candles and has soft music playing in the background. The atmosphere is very laid back and fun.

Tyler: You can't go wrong with Pizza Hut's cheese pizza, it's quite possibly the best pizza. Ever. Also, the BBQ chicken pizza is great, and so is the taco pizza. I also got the chance to try that new pizza with the "popable bites" the other day too, and that was all right, I prefer their normal pizza or Stuffed Crust pizza. For a quality meal (ok, maybe not so good on the heart) at a price that's easy on your wallet, Pizza Hut's Wednesday night buffet is hard to beat.

Annie: We each ordered the all you can eat buffet. The buffet includes the salad bar, a variety of pizzas, cinnamon sticks, and a few choices of pasta. The buffet is served on Wednesday nights and for lunch during the week. The buffet is $6.25, but doesn't include soft drinks. We also ordered a basket of bread sticks. They come out steaming hot with a great cheese sauce. We also ordered a large order of mild wings. They were very good and came with your choice of blue cheese or ranch dip.

Tyler: I thought the wings were ok, I've had better, but it's a pizza restaurant, my expectations weren't exactly high to begin with. Their breadsticks, on the other hands, are awesome, especially the ones you can order from the menu with cheese sauce.

As long as it looks halfway-decent, I'm okay with it. Anyway, Pizza Hut is great, if you've never eaten there, get out from beneath that rock you've been living under and get over to Pizza Hut.

Annie: I really enjoyed my Wednesday night buffet experience at Pizza Hut. It is such a fun atmosphere and the good is great. I will definitely be making my way back there as soon as a free Wednesday comes my way. Pizza Hut is still the best.

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"We often call her our triathlete - she runs, she swims and she flies."
-Cindy Nestel, mother

a closer look at EMILY Nestel

By Katie Corson
Associate Life Editor

Her curly blonde hair has made Senior Emily Nestle easy to find in a crowd of people. Emily's hair isn't the only thing that makes her stand out though. In a world that is becoming increasingly materialistic and stressful, Emily has continued to follow her own easy going path. Earning eleven varsity letters and her Pilot's License, the first female at Homestead to do so, proves that Emily is never afraid to push limits. Despite her busy schedule, she found time to sit down with the Spartana and talk about flying, sports, faith, and her plans for next year.

Spartana: What made you become interested in aviation?

When I was little I always wanted to become an astronaut. My mom is a science teacher. She wanted to go into space, and she wanted me to go too. After a while I decided that pretty much wasn't going to happen. When I was fifteen, there was a free flying camp one summer and I decided to go. I just tried it and really liked it.

Spartana: Did you start taking lessons after that?

I started taking lessons in July after my sophomore year, so I have been flying for about a year and a half. During the summer I'll fly a couple times a week, but right now, since I already have my license, I go about once a month.

Spartana: What did you have to do to get your license?

Oh my gosh. I had to have a certain number of hours flying at night, and I had to have a certain number of hours flying with just the instruments. Then I had to take a huge test. There were three parts. There was a written part on the computer, which I had to pass before I could fly solo. I had to do an oral part, and the instructor was able to ask me anything he wanted. That part was three hours long. And then I had to take a flying test, like practical things.

Spartana: Have you ever been in a situation where you were really scared?

There were a couple of times when I was doing a stall and it went all the way over and I didn't catch it. That can be really scary. There have been times when other planes have gotten really close, like over by Huntington Airport, and that can be a little scary too. Nothing too bad though. I was nervous the first time I took off by myself, but it's by yourself, so if you're not scared you're crazy.

Spartana: Are you planning to make flying a part of your career?

I'm going to Purdue to study aviation. After that I would like to be a missionary pilot and fly people and supplies in the jungle. I want to do that for a few years, and then maybe commercial stuff after that.

Spartana: Have you ever been on a missions trip?

Last summer I went to Ecuador with my church, Wallen Baptist Church. The process of going down to Ecuador was almost better than the trip. It seemed like that alone would have been worth it. Of course the trip was awesome. [In Ecuador] we did a bunch of Vacation Bible Schools, played with the kids, and I tried to learn Spanish but I didn't do too well. Our trip started in Keito, which is the capital of Ecuador, and then went to a bunch of other villages. It was really pretty because the villages were in a rainforest.

Spartana: Was your trip what made you want to do missions?

Yeah. Just seeing how happy those people were and they don't even know that they don't have a lot. People here have everything they want and they're still now happy, or even close to happy. It made me realize that money isn't going to make a difference. If I'm doing something that I love, it doesn't matter if I'm making money or not because I can definitely be happy without it.

Spartana: Are you at all nervous about being sent into a jungle somewhere?

I'm not really nervous about that part. I would be more nervous about learning the language and that kind of stuff. I can do physics and math, but that other stuff is harder. I would have to do mechanics stuff, and get my Pilot's License. Right now I just have my private license, so I'll have to get my instrument and commercial license. I would also have to take so many hours of Biblical studies.

Spartana: Are you planning to continue playing any sports next year?

I want to play Club Ultimate Frisbee.... or maybe Crew. Playing Ultimate Frisbee because would be running and staying in shape, but then I also feel like I have a purpose if I'm at least chasing a Frisbee, instead of just running around. It's a lot more exciting.

Spartana: Of the sports you play, cross country, swimming, and track, which is your favorite?

I don't know. Cross country, I like the sport more. I like just going out to run. Swimming, the team is so close and it's so much fun, but it's so sticking hard. It's tough to get up in the morning for practice. Track, I like running, but I don't like being in as much pain as racing causes.

Spartana: Tell me about FCA. I understand you're pretty involved in it?

FCA stands for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and we meet every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in Mr. Panning's room. I like FCA because it helps encourage people in a place where they aren't usually encouraged.

Spartana: How did FCA get started?

Some friends and I started talking about it towards the end of last year, but we didn't have enough time to get it started before the end of the year. So last fall we got together again and were able to get it started. Mr. Panning is our sponsor, and we're almost an official club now.

Spartana: What is the best thing that has ever happened to you?

Well...freshman year New Year's Eve I became a Christian. Now I don't think about what people would want me to do, I think about what I should do. That's changed pretty much everything.

Top: Emily Nestel (12) takes a picture on her missions trip to Ecuador. The trip inspired her to become a missionary pilot. Above: Nestel runs at a cross country meet. Nestel partcipated in both cross country and track.
Far Left: Kelly Johnson (12), Jessica Hennick (12). Dani Johnson (12) and Emily Nestel (12) pose for a picture at a swim meet. Nestel was a part of the Homestead swim team for all four years of high school. Left: Nestel and a passenger get ready to take off in a plane. She started taking flying lessons in July after her sophomore year. She got her pilot's liscence after taking a huge test.
photos courtesy of Cindy Nestel

"She doesn't realize that, but I think that her optimism and her attitude [impact] people the most."
- Rob Mansfield, Youth Pastor

"She has always been a little bit on the unique side. She never quite cared what anyone else said."
- Cindy Nestel, Mother

"Emily is really funny because she doesn't know she's funny all the time, but she really is just in the things she does and says."
- Michaela Miller (12)

Eye Contact: Tattoos

a photo essay by zach hetrick

homestead INK

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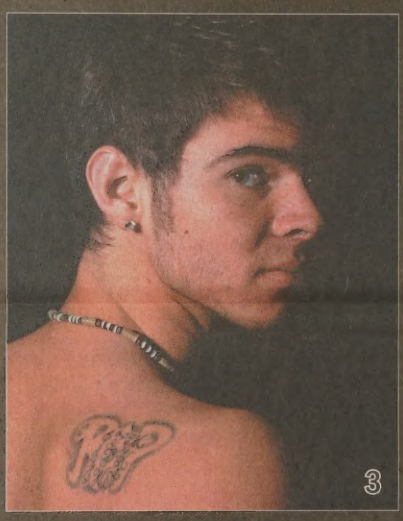
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1 Brittany Neal (10)
2 Justin Schoepole (12)
3 Matt Hoffman (12)
4 Spencer York (12)
5 Travis McGehee (12)
6 Pat Nagel (11)
7 K-Sam Perkins (12)
8 Jessica Meyers (12)

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7

8

special edition volume 36
homestead high school
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A closer look at Jon Swain Page 3

SPECIAL EDITION

SECOND TO ONE

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Above: The team celebrates after taking second at state. Below: David Piercy (12) concentrates on a dive. His coach described his performance as a "career best" and Piercy won by 33.05 points, a record.

PIERCY'S PERFORMANCE

STATE STANDINGS

1 David Piercy	551.20
2 Caleb Dunnichay	518.15
3 Matthew Sommers	459.85
4 Tyler Clingerman	455.75
5 Cameron Hansbarger	452.50
6 Josh Blackwell	452.35
7 Cory Noggle	441.00
8 Jimmy Page	436.20
9 Kurt Barttrum	407.75
10 Nick Swift	402.70
11 Jeff Heintz	392.00
12 Josh Fletcher	390.85
13 Kurt Hansbarger	390.30
14 Ryan Williams	389.00
15 Sean Seager	381.30

State diving champion, David Piercy (12), scored the third highest winning score in state history, 551.20, defeating his closest competition by 33.05 points. Piercy will attend Indiana University next year, and plans to continue diving there. Piercy and the divers helped lead the team to their second-place finish, scoring 40 of the team's 209 points. The dive team will be lead next year by Kurt Hansbarger (11). His brother, Cameron (12) placed 5th at the state competition.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Boys varsity swimming and diving returns triumphant with the runner-up state trophy

By Tim Clark, with reporting by Dillon Kimmel and Austin Hetrick
Writer, Executive Editors

As the cheers faded from the previous event, the 200-yard freestyle relay squad took its place at the Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) natatorium. Adam Lill (11), Kyle Frebel (10), Chris Jones (12), and Andrew Hoffman (12) huddled quietly together just before the start. Hoffman started his day by taking third in the 200 freestyle, followed by taking second in the most grueling event of the day (the 500-yard freestyle event). He would anchor the race for the squad.

The state ranking predicted that the team would, at best, be a contender for the event: but Chris Jones could see the win in sight.

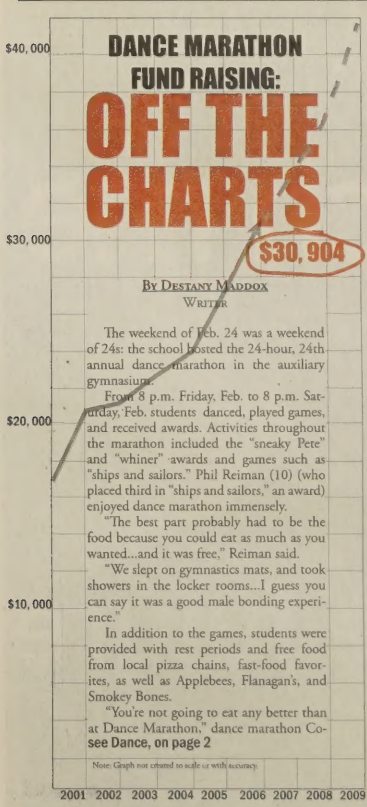
"We felt we had the strongest [relay] team," Jones said. "As a senior you try to put it in your teammates' minds that we will do the best we can to bring [the relay win] home. We wanted the underclassmen to know that us upperclassmen were going to do everything we could to win it for them."

As Hoffman entered the water for the final leg, Jones handed him a lead, and Hoffman never looked back.

"Before [my leg]…[Andrew] told me to just catch [the rest of the field] and that he would bring it home," Jones said. "I held up my end of the bargain…and he did the

see Swimming, on page 2

MORE ON SWIMMING
photo essay, by Zach Hetrick, a season in review, and further coverage on page 4



By Destany Maddox
Writer

The weekend of Feb. 24 was a weekend of 24s: the school hosted the 24-hour, 24th annual dance marathon in the auxiliary gymnasium.

From 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. students danced, played games, and received awards. Activities throughout the marathon included the "sneaky Pete" and "whiner" awards and games such as "ships and sailors." Phil Reiman (10) (who placed third in "ships and sailors," an award) enjoyed dance marathon immensely.

"The best part probably had to be the food because you could eat as much as you wanted...and it was free," Reiman said.

"We slept on gymnastics mats, and took showers in the locker rooms...I guess you can say it was a good male bonding experience."

In addition to the games, students were provided with rest periods and free food from local pizza chains, fast-food favorites, as well as Applebees, Flanagan's, and Smokey Bones.

"You're not going to eat any better than at Dance Marathon," dance marathon Co-

see Dance, on page 2

Boys basketball trumps South Side, advances in tournament

By Sam Van Horn
Writer

It's not always the team with the better players, or the team with the home court advantage that wins ball games. Sometimes it comes down to who has more heart and determination at the end of the game. Last Tuesday, the varsity basketball team played the South Side Archers in their first sectional game. As it came down the stretch, the Spartans proved that they wanted the game more, and showed their opponent how hard they can play. They defeated the Archers 55-48 in a close game that came down to the fourth quarter.

"We weren't playing well at the end of the season," Kyle Leiendecker (11) said. "We wanted to play better in our first post-season game."

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Grant Leiendecker (12) watches one of Jono Cobb's shots during the sectional victory.

see Basketball, on page 3

DECA competes at state level, some advance to nationals

By Luke Chase
Writer

Being a competitor on a state level is a great accomplishment for any event, and Homestead Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) members got a taste of it this past weekend when they participated in their annual state competition.

The organization is dedicated to developing future leaders in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. DECA chapters span the nation and are divided into four regions within the United States and Canada.

One of the ways the organization provides a taste of the business experience to the members is by trying to create a business-like environment at the competitions. At the state competition the participants were required to dress in a shirt and tie, or a specific suit with the DECA emblem embroidered on the chest.

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, DECA students met and boarded buses headed to Indianapolis for the state competition. Some sixty students stepped on the bus, as well as DECA Coordinator Brian McNeal, and other teachers.

The event was held in the Marriot across from the RCA Dome at the same time as the NFL Scouting Combine, and students saw many sporting icons during their visit.

During the trip there was a time for fun and a time for business. Sunday night, students took a 100-question test specific to the category each student would participate

see DECA, on page 2

BRIEFS

SPRING MUSICAL

Rehearsals for "Cabaret," began on Thursday, March 2. The cast stars Trevor Alt (12), Kristina Kartholl (12), Emma Farnsworth (11), Tom Lyday (12), and Jim Katz (12).

FRENCH WEEK

The annual celebration was held Monday, Feb. 27th through Friday, March 3. French Club sold croissants on Tuesday morning and bon-bons on Thursday and Friday. French week introduced students into the French culture and celebrations, including Mardi Gras. To celebrate Mardi Gras, the French club also sold beads and went on a field trip to South Side to celebrate with other area French Club chapters.

LIP SYNC

The Lip Sync competition will be held March 15 in the auditorium. This year, student government, rather than show choir, will be hosting the event. Student government intends to boost attendance from previous year. In order to accomplish this, the event will be held in a format similar to "American Idol."

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 27 issue of the Spartana in an article on lacrosse, the approximate total cost to play in the club was incorrectly identified as being $800. While it is possible to spend that amount, the average cost is approximately $400.

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Swimming, continued from page 1

same. I'm really proud of him and I thank him very much. I don't think anyone in the state could have done what [Hoffman] did."

Hoffman's final surge brought his hand into contact with the wall just more than three tenths of a second faster than second place Munster's swimmer. Hoffman would race again in the day, taking fourth in the 400 meter relay. The 200 free relay win helped lead the team to a second place finish Saturday.

David Piercy (12) also recorded the third highest winning total in state finals history, winning the one-meter diving competition by 33.05 points over runner-up and 2004 champion Caleb Dunnichey (Elwood High School).

"It feels real good, a dream come true," Piercy said. "The season went great overall. Since this was my senior year, I wanted something to remember it by."

Piercy admitted that coming into this season, he wasn't sure what to expect.

"At the beginning of the year, I didn't know whether I could compete for a state championship," he said. "Then, I realized that I could stay up with the big guys."

Coach Chad Englehart got just what he expected out of his boys: a second-place performance and a few championship wins. Homestead was able to withstand the heavy pressure of a state meet in order to capture the state's runner-up title. This came after last season's disappointing tie for eighth place after what many thought was a very successful regular season.

THE FINAL STANDINGS

1 North Central HS	295
2 Homestead	209
3 Chesterton	182
4 Hamilton South East.	174
5 Munster	157
6 South Bend Riley	136
7 Yorktown	90
8 Terre Haute North	80
9 Northridge	72
10 Crown Point	70

"Last year's group had been leading [the team] for the first time," Englehart said. "They were largely underclassmen. We only graduated two kids from the entire team last year. It was very much a younger group that was going through [state competition] for the first time on their own and they just lacked a little confidence to get their best performances at the state meet."

This year's team matured enough to meet the expectations Englehart had before the state meet. The team finished behind heavily favored North Central High School, located in Indianapolis. The Spartans' 209 points were bested by North Central's 295.

"We did very well," Englehart said. "We broke a school record for points in a state meet. The swimmers and divers both had wonderful performances. We would have loved to have gotten more swims out of Friday into Saturday, but I think everybody really gave a great effort."

> *"We broke a school record for points in a state meet. The swimmers and divers both had wonderful performances... everybody really gave a great effort."*
>
> CHAD ENGLEHART
> SWIM COACH

Englehart was impressed by the performances of two seniors at the state meet. Swimmer Hoffman and diver Piercy had career performances at the state meet, which Englehart commended.

"The seniors really stood up," Englehart said. "Andrew has been solid for us all season long. David picked a great time to have the performance of his life. He was a huge catalyst to us on Saturday."

Despite some early-on adversity, the team was able to make a valiant run towards the end of the meet. Englehart credits the determination and hard work by both the swimmers and divers. He expressed that the courage showed by the seniors in this meet will help the underclassmen in years to come.

"I think we had a lot of underclassmen with us this weekend," Englehart said. "We had the largest team in the entire meet there. They saw how the senior class approached the meet and how we were able to battle through some early-meet adversity and really come through strong. I think their confidence and resolve is that much stronger."

Englehart looks for the success of this year's team to carry over into next season because of the great senior leadership and focus of the team. He is optimistic about next year's endeavors, and hopes that this year's result can be equaled, or perhaps even trumped, next season.

"The seniors were leaders," Englehart said. "They had been state runner-ups as sophomores and I think they knew where they were headed and what they wanted to accomplish. I think the younger kids got an opportunity to see how they went about their business and how they were able to prepare themselves to be successful. I think it was a very good learning experience and hopefully they will take that with them into next season."

DECA, continued from page 1

in the next day.

"I didn't think the test was difficult at all," Blake Barnhart (12) said, who competed as a single in business services. Barnhart placed second in one of the three components of his events. He placed seventh overall as well as receiving a competency metal for scoring an 85% or better on the test all participants took on Sunday.

On Monday, the students competed in their specific event. There were over thirty events to compete in and in many there was the option to compete as an individual or in a group.

During each competition, the students would present to a panel of judges and be evaluated on different aspects of the presentation depending on the category.

Their was a lot of downtime, and for the most part, students could do what they wanted with it.

Many of the students went to the circle center mall or just "hung out in the room" at the Marriott were the event was held.

Monday night was a time for the students to unwind. There was a dance for all the participants in the competition.

On Tuesday morning, the awards were presented. Quite a few Homestead students, around twelve, qualified for the national competition, which will be held in Dallas, Texas.

Although Homestead's chapter did not win any awards as a whole, many individual members and teams won awards in their own competition. The first place award for a chapter went to Carmel who has almost twice as many student representatives at the competition.

After the presentation of the awards, the students boarded the busses.

DECA is a nationwide organization which offers students a look into the future if they peruse a path in business. The organization provides scholarships and experiences for student to prepare for real life.

Dance, continued from page 1

Chairperson Ann Matheis said.

This year's dance marathon had one of the highest turn outs ever, with hundreds of participants filling the gymnasium.

"[This was] probably the largest number of participants we've had on dance marathon," Athletic Director John Ankenbruck said.

PHOTO COURTESY BROCK ROHLFING

Students at dance marathon enjoy one of the many rap songs played during the dance.

The organizers of the event believe that dance marathon is more than a good time for students. The money raised from the dance is contributed to the Athletic Boosters where they vote on the amount (anywhere from $20,000 to $30,000) given to the athletic department.

"This is the one big fund raiser that the athletic boosters have each year," Ankenbruck said.

Together, dance marathon participants raised $30,904 before expenses. Only once before has the event collected more than $30,000. Jaqui Matheis (9), along with her partner Chelsea Hanauer (9), raised the highest individual amount of donations: $2006.

Their total was a new record for the school. Students were required to raise at least $350 to participate, most of which was raised through pledges and donations.

Sharing the night with the dancers was the eighth annual "midnight madness" three-on-three basketball competition. A tournament was held after dinner break where dancers cleared the floor for the teams. The winning team then had to play a game against the coaches in which the winning team had bragging rights.

Those who attended or participated in midnight madness or the dance marathon will receive a T-shirt designed by a student from Mike Schmid's art class.

The dance marathon committee will vote on the best T-shirt designs at a later date.

"In my opinion, [dance marathon] just keep getting better," Matheis said.

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Basketball, continued from page 1

They finished the year off 15-6 and took a couple of bad conference losses to close out the season. With time to prepare and practice hard for their upcoming opponent, the Spartans were ready to play against the Archers on Tuesday. The game took place at Northrop, where all the sectional games are to be played.

The game plan for the Spartans was to limit transition points, get back quickly down the floor and break the trap defense. Players agreed that they performed all of those things well, however, the Archers still were able to hang around and kept the game close.

The Spartans ended the half trailing by five points, but made half time adjustments allowing them to get back in it, and tie the game at the end of the third quarter.

Early in the fourth quarter the team was able to take the lead and never looked back, hanging on for the close victory.

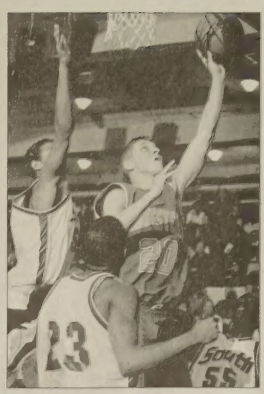
"We couldn't beat them the way we were playing in the first three quarters," Jono Cobb (12) said. "And just getting the guys together was the key."

Cobb' lead all scorers in the game with 21 points, including all of the team's three pointers (three in total). Cobb also had eight rebounds, leading the way, out-rebounding the Archers, 27-17. Trevor Terrell (12) and Grant Leiendecker (12) both had 10 points, helping the Spartans win such a close game.

Their next game is tonight against the North Side Redskins at Northrop. Students planning to attend the game should plan on getting to the event early because their is limited seating. The game starts at 6:00 p.m.

"If we play as well as we did in the fourth quarter in the last game, then we should be able to come away with the same outcome," Leiendecker said.

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK



Top: Kyle Leiendecker (11) attempts a lay up over two South Side defenders during the fourth quarter. Above: Jono Cobb (12) listens to Coach Chris Johnson during a fourth quarter time out. Cobb led the team in three point shots (three) as well as points (21). Left: Spartans supporters celebrate as time runs out.

Show choirs perform around area, soon travel to Chicago

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

79 singers, dancers, and musicians belong to the Class Royale show choir, the Elite show choir, or the Anonymous Blue backup band. Members of these groups are selected through an audition process. The two choirs, which are directed by Dr. Keith Touchton, meet daily as scheduled classes.

The choirs also meet for two hours after school twice a week. These practices begin in September and run through April. The backup band, directed by Greg Vey, was also selected through auditions and meets after school for rehearsals.

"Show Choir involves a lot of time and commitment because of the preparation needed to develop the show which includes songs, costumes, and dances," Alexa Grimes (10) said.

Competition season began in January and the groups have already participated in four different events. This year they have competed against choirs from Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and even Alabama at the Northrop, Churubusco, Zionsville, and Franklin Central show choir competitions. They will again be competing at Bishop Luers this weekend.

On March 10, 11 and 12th they will travel to the Chicago area to take part in their final competition of the season at Mundelein High School.

Show choir competitions involve a lot of time. This past weekend the group left the school at about 5:30 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday, they left the hotel they were staying at by 6:00 a.m. Elite, (the all girls choir,) performed at 8:00 a.m. Class Royale then preformed at about 3:00 p.m. Class Royale made finals, so they performed again at 9:30 that night. Anonymous Blue preformed at each of these times with the choirs.

"This is a great group to work with and they have done quite well this year at competition, Touchton said. "In all my years of teaching this is the best choir I have ever had the privilege to direct."

PAST COMPETITIONS
Feb. 11 - Zionsville HS
Feb. 25 - Franklin Central HS
March 4 - Bishop Luers

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS
March 11 - Mundelein - Chicago
March 18 - Homestead's Classic Showcase

The two choirs are each unique. Class Royale is a mixed choir that consists of 41 members. Elite is a women's choir that has 38 students. Class Royale has received first, second, third and fourth runner-up placements this year.

They have also been recognized for best vocals and best choreography. Elite has also received awards that include best stage crew. Anonymous Blue has been recognized as best backup band this year.

"It is always nice to win but I do it just for the fun of performing," Kate Taylor, a member of Elite (10) said. "The songs that we sing this year are from the seventies and nineties. Our costumes are really different from what a typical show choir would wear."

Elite's show consists of music by Simon and Garfunfunkel, KC and the Sunshine Band, Jennifer Lopez, Madonna, and Janet Jackson. The girls perform a very active dance routine while singing.

Class Royale has a completely different feel to their program. They begin with "Freedom Dance." They then sing "Fascinating Rhythm" while they wear white gloves. The show ends in a variety of swing dancing, which includes a section of stunts.

"Show choir is part of who I am, it's what I do," K-Sam Perkins, a member of Class Royale (12) said.

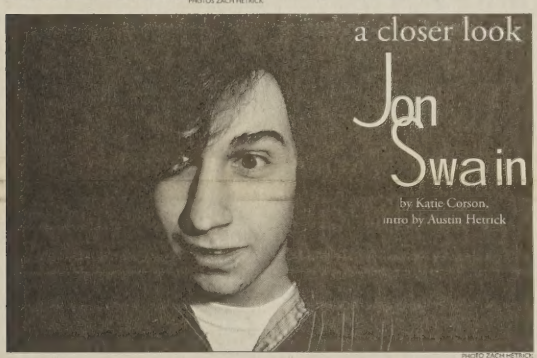


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

His fingers flying, Jon Swain (11) is a maniac. His eyes seem to fly anywhere but towards his fingers...his chords and melodies seem to fly from his guitar. Hidden in his quiet figure is a musical potential few students can hope to have, and are lucky to witness. Swain is a musician, a guitarist, an artist. He began guitar just four years ago.

Spartana: What first go you involved in playing?

Swain: The Beatles really got me interested at first. Then I got really bored in middle school. I didn't have a whole lot of friends 'til I started playing guitar.

Spartana: How often do you practice?

Swain: I usually play two or three hours everyday, at least. I have to or else I'll go mad.

Spartana: How often have you performed for an audience? Do you ever get nervous?

Swain: I've played in front of an audience a numerous amount of time. People's opinions don't really bother me, so I don't get nervous that often. If they dig it, cool, if they don't, that's fine with me.

Spartana: What is it like to play that fast; do you have to watch your hands or just play by feel?

Swain: Everything I play is by feel. If the feeling is there it just comes right out of my fingers.

Spartana: What styles of music do you like and why?

Swain: Improvisation has always been my favorite way to play music, so I like a lot of traditional and modern jazz, jam bands, but I like anything that's good.

Spartana: Have you written any songs of your own?

Swain: Yes, I write many different tunes for many different projects.

Spartana: What guitarists do you admire and why?

Swain: Wes Montgomery – All hail the great king! Charlie Hunter is a huge influence on me; I've never heard anyone do what he does.

Spartana: What advice can you give to new guitarists?

Swain: The best advice I can give is to not get too caught up with guitar itself. It's good to remember that the guitar is only your tool to make wondrous music.

Spartana: Do you hope to pursue music in college or as a career?

Swain: I hope to attend college for music, and I hope to do music the rest of my time on this earth.

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- Extremity, Neck & Back Pain
- Headaches-Migraines
- Auto Accidents
- Muscle Spasms
- Pinched Nerves
- Carpal Tunnel
- Fibromyalgia
- Dizziness
- Whiplash
- Scoliosis
- Tingling
- Sciatica
- Stress
- TMJ

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the Spartana

EYE CONTACT: STATE SWIMMING

a photo essay by zach herrick

1

2

BOYS SWIM AND DIVE TAKES 2ND IN STATE

3

4

5

6

1. The team celebrates their second place finish by posing for the cameras with their new trophy. 2. Jill Eakright hugs David Piecry (12) after his winning scores are displayed. 3. Zach Johnson (10) swims the 100 yard butterfly during the state finals. 4. The team in its entirety jumps into the pool after being awarded second place. The team finished with a school record for number of points scored. 5. Shawn Sullivan (12) and Ryan Dafforn (11) cheer as the times for the 200 yard freestyle relay are displayed. The team won the relay in a time of 1 minute 26 seconds. 6. Chris Jones (12) swims in his leg in the 200 free relay. 7. Andrew Hoffman (12) rests after the 100 free. Hoffman swam four races for the Spartans. 8. Cameron Hansbarger (12) preforms a dive during competition.

STATE TIMES, FINALS

1:26.24 - 200 Yard Freestyle Relay
Adam Lill, Christopher Jones, Kyle Frebel, Andrew Hoffman

1:36.95 - 200 Yard Medley Relay
Brenden O'Hara, Zachary Johnson, Robert Dent, Adam Lill

3:10.87 - 400 Yard Freestyle Relay
Zachary Johnson, Christopher Jones, Brenden O'Hara, Andrew Hoffman

4:34.65 - 500 Yard Freestyle
Andrew Hoffman

1:39.74 - 200 Yard Free Style
Andrew Hoffman

1:46.36- 200 Yard Freestyle
Zachary Johnson

1:57.94 - 200 Yard IM
Brenden O' Hara

21.79 - 50 Yard Freestyle
Christopher Jones

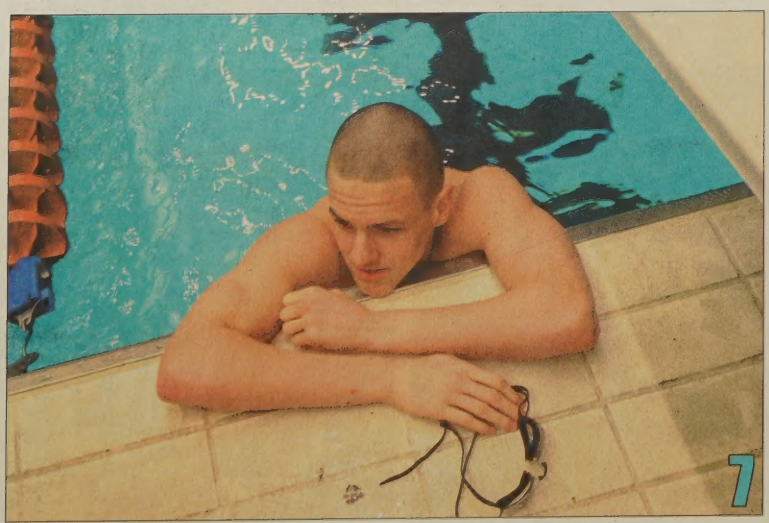
52.06 - 100 Yard Butterfly
Zachary Johnson

52.64 - 100 Yard Butterfly
Ryan Daffom

47.59 - 100 Yard Freestyle
Christopher Jones

53.66 - 100 Yard Backstroke
Brenden O'Hara

58.56 - 100 Yard Breaststroke
Robert Dent



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issue 11 volume 36
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana 46814
the spartana

Mixed beginning

The lacrosse club is off to a mixed start with a 5 - 2 record. With three games last week-end and two the week before, the team is recovering with two weeks off. page 4

BRINGING IN THE dogs

Beginning in the 2006 - 2007 school year, SACS will be the first district in Indiana to operate a police dog

QUICK INFO

The dog will be trained to find:
-drugs
-explosives
-missing students

It will initially cost $5,500.

Pape will look in kennels for a suitable animal, he hopes to find a lab.

Annual cost to the district: $700.

S.R.O. A.J. Pape will solicit funding from community organizations to ease the cost of the dog.

"It's cutting edge. [The support] has been positive...Even the students I've talked to say it's cool."
-S.R.O. A.J. Pape

*note: This is NOT the dog that will be used at Homestead. This is just a representation of what was described during the proposal to the School Board.

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

To the students of Union County Public Schools, located in Monroe, North Carolina, the presence of a furry fellow named Chuck has become an all-too familiar scene. Deemed a "passive drug dog," Chuck is the first of his kind. According to the district web site, the chocolate Labrador retriever is capable of detecting drug paraphernalia and gunpowder. The dog warns his handler by simply sitting down next to the item in question and pointing to it with his paw.

Southwest Allen County Schools is now a future site for another such drug dog. On March 14 the school board was presented with the proposal for adding a canine (K9) component to the current School Resource Officer (S.R.O.) program. At their next board meeting, held March 28, the board voted unanimously to implement the K9 program next fall. The dog is yet to be purchased, but when a dog is chosen, it will undergo training this summer.

The start-up cost of the program will be around $2,500, plus the cost of the dog itself, which be donated. The annual cost of the program is $1,000, plus $700 a year for the canine Officer, which the school board will be responsible for. However, the school board will only be responsible for $700 a year after the start-up fee is paid.

see Dogs on page 2

Radio broadcasters make waves at state

By Karolina Heyduk
Writer

In between country and rock, Homestead's radio station WCYT has had its place on the airwaves. Led by Adam Schenkel and Joe Asher, radio students took their places (and awards) at the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters (IASB) competition where they competed against more than 400 individuals from 36 Indiana high schools.

The IASB was founded in 1987 and today hosts the radio and television competition for both high school and college divisions. Students compete only in radio, which has 11 categories including on-air DJing, on-air newscasting, sports broadcasting, drama, and imaging. Judges for the event work in broadcasting professionally and were selected by the IASB committee.

Students had to send recorded materials for finalist judging by Feb. 17. Most students compiled their best pieces from the year's broadcasts. Schenkel points out that the deadline posed no problem and radio students found that preparation for the competition isn't very stressful.

"[The students] don't usually concentrate until after Christmas break," Schenkel said. "For on-air categories like announcing sports, we record every game and then have the student pick what he thinks is best."

"We have to send everything in on a CD. We record it on our studios in the back. It goes down to the judges in Indianapolis and we head down there about a month later," radio student Jake Lemon (11)

see Radio, on page 2

PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Abhi Vehmula (12), Hari Vasu (11), and Lee Farnsworth (10) at state certamen.

JCL takes state prizes

By David Greco
Writer

Venerunt, Viderunt, Vicerunt. They came, they saw, they conquered. This famous Latin phrase clearly describes the Homestead Junior Classical League's (JCL) trip to state convention this year. On March 10th and 11th Homestead JCL took the state competition at Indiana University.

Despite having placed third overall for several years in the past, the Latin Team made a sudden turnaround last year by placing second. With a sudden and swift momentum, the team roared into this year with a fury to win the championship.

"The competition is cut-throat," said Hari Vasu (11), the upcoming year's JCL State President. "Every team there is really hard core."

Many of the participants in the competition start out in middle school and continue throughout high school. They learn about the compe-

see JCL on page 2

BRIEFS

ECONOMICS TEAMS PREPARING
The Economics Challenge teams will have their first competition on April 11. Economics Challenge is essentially an economics quiz bowl, where students compete in teams of four. Students in the competition take individual tests, and afterwards teams compete together in the "lightning round." Individual tests and the lightning round are added together to determine which team wins.

SACS CONSIDERS SECURITY CAMERA UPGRADE
The school board is considering the implementation of more advanced security cameras in parking lots. Preliminary research offered at the March 28 board meeting ranged from $80,000 to $120,000. Board President John Blum hopes to implement upgrades next fall.

ACADEMIC SUPER BOWL PLACES
The science, English, and math teams each earned second places at the team's first meet on March 6. Homestead had an overall fifth place finish. Super Bowl teams will next be competing on April 18.

IN THIS ISSUE

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PAGE 3, Opinions: Letter: Brad Zehr (11) writes about drug testing
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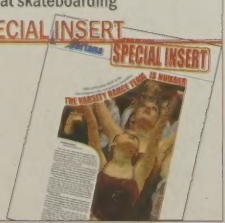
PAGE 5, Sports : Boys and girls track and field finish indoor meets
PAGE 6, Life : Show choir closes out competition season
PAGE 7, Life : Fox and Hound review
PAGE 8, Eye Contact : A closer look at skateboarding
SPECIAL INSERT



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

SAVING LIVES, + GIVING BLOOD

Student government and Red Cross blood drive has large turnout

By Karolina Heyduk
Writer

Heart stickers and pins traveled the hallways as students donated blood at the annual Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by Student Government. The drive was held in the Auxillary Gym from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and drew 91 donors.

Student government organized the event by contacting the local Red Cross and coordinating schedules. Anna Menze (12), executive board president of Student Government, oversaw that this year's blood drive ran as it had in previous years. The date was chosen and a sign-up sheet was available at lunch the week before for students who wished to donate blood. On Wednesday, March 22, students who received passes went to the gym and waited for their number to be called.

Students had to read a mandatory packet, be screened for eligibility, and pass a survey on their personal history before they could donate. Students were given snacks and drinks to help with the blood loss that can make a donor feel faint, nauseous, or dizzy. The procedure takes about ten minutes and

see Blood, on page 2

Top: Chelsey Sholl (11) looks away as a Red Cross technician begins to draw blood. Above: Charley Jorgenson (11) finishes up his donation session during the drive.

MORE ON BLOOD DRIVE
Average amount of blood donated: 1 pint
Number of donors: 91
Number of donors deferred (turned away): 15

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Above: As Hari Vasu (11) asks a representative a question, Eric Krafticheck (11), and Brian Marks (11) look at the brochures of Miami of Ohio University. Below: Desmond Lewis (11) talks to a representative from Indiana State University.

Guidance holds annual college fair to help ease selection process

By Karolina Heyduk
Writer

Area high school students were invited to attend the college fair hosted at Homestead. The fair provided an array of booths representing different opportunities for students after high school graduation.

On Wednesday 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., visitors to the fair could find information on 91 different participants, including Northwestern University, Purdue University, Indiana University, Notre Dame University, and representatives from branches of the military. Amy Hamilton, a guidance counselor who organizes the event, said attendance hit between 350 to 400 students.

"We are thrilled with the turnout and feel it was a great success," Hamilton said.

Preparations for the event began months in advance and by February, participating colleges had been recruited. Aside from college representatives, student and parent volunteers worked the fair to help with set-up and registration. Colleges had to pay a small fee, which was used for food, decorations, and the $200 scholarship (won by Caitlin McPherson (11)).

The fair offered a chance for high school students to obtain information on colleges, but unlike a counselor meeting, the college fair allowed parents and students to attend together.

"It is a great time for parents and students to begin the 'college talk,'" said Hamilton.

Hamilton added that thinking about college should start early and advises students not to put it off to their junior year.

"The college fair is for all grade levels. Students need to be talking to college reps in their freshman year to learn what they need to do to be competitive," Hamilton said. "We encourage [students in grades] nine through twelve...to participate and learn early what they need to do to prepare for long-term success."

The college fair gave students a chance to get direct information and brought college planning to the forefront.

"I liked getting to talk to the individual representatives and learn a little about each school, which seemed more personal than just taking a brochure," Brian Marks (11) said. "It got me thinking a lot more about how I should be preparing to spend the next few years of my life."

But students also had opinions on how the fair could be improved.

"Instead of a ton of small colleges from Indiana, I would like to see some bigger names there," McPherson said.

"I think the colleges should send more knowledgeable representatives. I got a lot of 'I'm not sure, but you can call the administrative office,'" said Will Kioultzopoulos (11).

Hamilton pointed out that the college fair is only a start for the college application process and that students should be searching the internet for college information, as well as making campus visits.

"Talking to a rep at a college fair is a good start but making the visit is critical. I ask students if they would buy a car without driving it. They tell me, 'no!' So why would you say yes to college without first visiting?"

The college application process may seem daunting to many students, but Hamilton and the guidance department have helpful tips for high school students, including keeping a calendar of important dates and deadlines and talking to parents about financing college.

"Everything will come together in the end," Hamilton said.

Dogs, continued from page 1

"If the program is approved, we will be seeking donations to cover the cost of the program," Anita Gross, SACS' social worker, said.

SACS' dog will have the same capabilities as Chuck. It will be able to detect drug and alcohol paraphernalia, as well as gun powder. But unlike Chuck, SACS is looking into purchasing a dog that can track as well. Lastly, it will also be a "passive drug dog," which means it will not be trained to attack or bite.

Ideally, the dog will be a Labrador of some sort between one and two years of age. Resource Officer AJ Pape will be responsible for the dog at all times, and it will be kept on a leash during the school day. It will also accompany Pape to every extracurricular activity he is working at.

"It's cutting edge. [The support] has been positive…Even the students I've talked to say it's cool," Pape said.

When not "working," the dog will remain in Pape's office. The dog will also be property of the Allen County Police Department.

Questions have been raised about how the dog will affect students and teachers with allergies. Pape addressed this at Tuesday's board meeting, saying the dog will not roam free through the halls, so as not to affect those allergic. Also, he said he will be looking into a dog that sheds as little as possible,

Gross sees the K9 Unit as a critical part of the district's continued fight against drug and alcohol abuse among students.

"Similar to our random drug testing program, the greatest value of a full time K9 in our school is the deterrent effect. If students understand that there is a greater change of getting caught with drugs or guns at school they will hopefully make the choice not to bring guns or drugs into our schools," Gross said.

Gross reiterated that the dog will not interrupt or cause a disturbance during the school day. At Union County, the dog is a welcomed attraction. Deputy Baucom, Piedmont High School resource officer, said in an article on the Union County web site that the dog is friendly.

"Chuck is awesome…he loves students, and he loves to be petted. He's very approachable. I have to tell the students who want to pet him, 'Not right now. He's working.' But afterward, I'll go outside and let the kids love on him," Baucom said.

Some students feel that the dog will help alleviate the school's drug problem, while others think it will not solve anything.

"People are going to do drugs whether we have a dog that can smell it out or not," Lori Christner (11) said.

"I don't mind having it here. I think if kids are dumb enough to have drugs in their locker then they are dumb enough to get themselves caught," Katie Veith (11) said.

Veith said that the dog could help solve the problem of students bringing illegal substances to school.

"They know they cannot bring it to school because...if the dog finds it, they will get caught," Veith said.

JCL, continued from page 1

tition more and more as their high school career progresses.

In the State JCL convention the competitors battle it out in five different categories, which include: Academic Testing, Graphic Arts, Scrapbook, Certamen, and Creative Arts. The Academic Testing has nine different types; geography, grammar, pentatholan, vocabulary, derivative, mythological, roman history, reading and comprehension, and mottos and quotations. Graphic Arts have stitching, mosaics, models, and more. The Scrapbook, which Homestead received first in, was an important win for the team. Certamen (which literally means "competition" or "struggle") has the same categories as Academic Testing, and Creative Arts has written comprehension, English oratory, and Latin oratory.

"Overall, even though it was a tough competition, it was a lot of fun," said Nick Myers (10).

The Homestead team consists of three divisions, which include: novice, lower, and upper classes. The novice got second place and the upper class got first place. The upper class team consisted of students such as Hari Vasu, Lee Farnsworth, Emma Farnsworth, and Abhinav Vemula.

Along with the other competitions, the election of state board members took place during the state convention as well. This year, Hari Vasu was elected State President and Lee Farnsworth was elected First Vice President.

To receive high score for these types of competitions, the team had to practice extensively. The JCL team practiced twice a week with their sponsor, Latin teacher Kathy Adair. Adair took over as JCL sponsor in 1989 and has been in this position by herself until this last year. Mrs. Waite decided to assist the team and join in going to state convention with them.

"The state convention was an experience I will never forget," said Paul Szostak (10).

As well as being full of competition, the Latin team contains values to build higher standards for all students. The National JCL Creed states that the members "affirm…brotherhood, enthusiasm, competition, dedication, and total growth."

"JCL is a great organization that gives lots of opportunities to everyone in it," said Vasu. "It really makes people prove to themselves how much they can achieve."

State convention brought improvements to the team, taught important lessons, and showed how great the Homestead JCL Team can be. The success can be summed up in a single Latin phrase, "Res Ipsa Loquitur": the matter speaks for itself.

Blood, continued from page 1

draws a pint of blood. That pint, according to the Red Cross, can be used to save nearly three lives.

"If three lives can be saved with my donation…I'm more than willing to give a little," said Tommy Lyday (12). "[My blood] goes to people who potentially could die without my donation."

According to Ryan Cicero (11), a member of Student Government who coordinated the blood drive, this year's donor count was higher than last year's, although roughly 15 of the 91 donors were deferred.

Deferments were given if students did not meet certain requirements placed on donors by the Red Cross.

Donors must be 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds, as well as be in good general health. The Red Cross provides a list of other restrictions, including ineligibility if a donation occurred in the past eight weeks or if the donor traveled to certain foreign countries.

The Red Cross does not advise donation if a donor feels ill with a fever, cough, or has sinus infections. Donors with chronic illnesses, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, are allowed if the condition is under control.

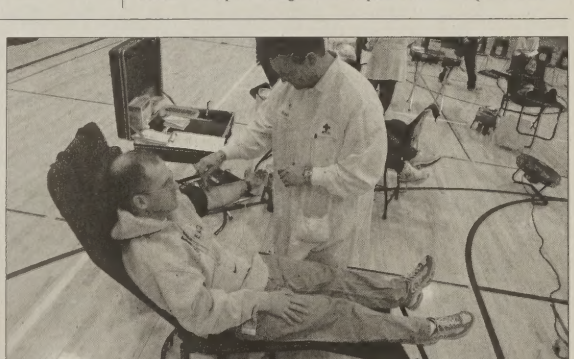
The blood drive gave students with otherwise busy schedules a chance to donate with ease.

"It [made] donating blood convenient for high school students that may not have time or want to go across town to donate blood," Caitlin Ryan (11) said.

The Red Cross receives around 4 million donations annually. Students at Homestead were glad to contribute to that figure.

"My dad donates blood regularly so I always thought that it was a good thing to do," Ryan said. "Plus, there are so many people out there that need blood. I'm happy to be able to help someone out, even if it's not in a huge way."

"The blood drive is a great opportunity for students to give something they already have (their blood) to people that need it the most," Menze said.



PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Gym teacher Jamie Frazier watches as a red cross blood technician prepares to start his donation.

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Radio, continued from page 1

said.

Students placed in four categories, including first in Drama for Julian Shine (11) and Andy Dunn (12), first in Basketball Play-by-Play for Jake Lemon (11) and Chris Jorgensen (10), third in Imaging for Julian Shine and Andy Dunn, and third in Interview for Jake Lemon.

The competition in Indianapolis provided more than just awards. Students attended various workshops that were hosted by professional TV anchors, cameramen, directors, and radio announcers.

The workshops gave students a chance to learn more about topics in certain fields related to communications and broadcasting.

Students in the radio program pulled together their various talents and interests to produce WYCT, using updated software to keep up with the professional world of broadcasting, which changes rapidly.

"Homestead…of course isn't identical to a professional radio station, but Joe Asher and I run it as if it were," Schenkel said. "We have limited funds and space to really run it exactly like a WOWO or WMEE."

Nevertheless, students find ways to explore their interests through the radio program, which saw record enrollment in both Radio 1 and Radio 2 classes this year.

"I'm the music director of the station, so [the best part] for me [would] have to be adding the new music and talking to record labels," said Dunn.

Schenkel, who studied broadcasting at Indiana University, encourages students interested in radio to pursue any available learning opportunity.

"I…realize[d] that any experience in high school was beneficial as I was light years ahead of all of my colleagues at IU," Schenkel said. "Hopefully any student who goes on to college to study broadcasting realizes the advantage he or she had by participating in it at Homestead."

Size doesn't matter: playing the 'bit' part

In life and in theater small parts are common, but when well-played, memorable

Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

A play, like life, is built around each and every character doing his best job, regardless of how many lines he's got. Shakespeare put it best:

"All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts."

A few weeks ago I walked into auditions for the spring musical "Cabaret." After a few tense days I found out my part, and started highlighting my lines.

My character was a big role, and I was pretty pumped. But for every big part in a musical, there are five or even ten small roles, and many of my friends landed in them.

Most of them are looking on the bright side, and are working hard to make their characters as convincing as they can, regardless of how many lines they may have.

They study their jobs, read their lines a thousand times in a thousand different ways in order to find the best one for that moment in the show.

Mike Peck (11) will only say a few lines on stage, but if you're in the audience, watch his delivery. Not only will he bring down the house with his bit part (hint: he plays a tipsy German soldier looking for a hooker), he will also be completely believable.

Of all the characters the audience may remember, they may well remember "Cabaret" best because of his one or two lines.

Others are not yet working so hard. Some are too lost in their disappointment to see the slightest lining on their clouds. I have been this person before, much too disheartened to want to look at what I have…it is after all a natural reaction. But eventually logic has to kick in, and making the best of a situation becomes the only option. I hope that the actors still unhappy about their parts will realize this soon.

Besides, life is full of casting.

Ever seen the cleaning staff at work, removing abandoned papers in the hallways, emptying trash cans, wiping the day's notes from chalkboards? In the casting of careers, a janitor cannot be called a lead role.

But the size of the part is not the question, the question is: how well do they play their part?

While students chat about the load of homework they've got, tests to retake, and the gossip of the day, janitors are busy working.

When students carelessly leave behind plates in the cafeteria, janitors pick them up. The janitors are playing their part not because it is the most fun, or it is the most glamorous, but because it is what they have been given and what they do for a living. And they do their jobs well.

While I've never been a janitor, I've played a good deal of bit roles. And what's more, if I hope to do shows in college or at a Civic someday, I'm definitely going to play them again.

Whatever it is you may intend to do in your life, more than likely you are going to end up playing some sort of small role someday. But that does not mean you can not bring down the house or do your very best at it.

Employment of a K9 unit an example of overkill

The editorial board wants to get one thing across: we like dogs. There's no doubt about it, they're cute, furry and friendly. And we understand that a drug-sniffing dog could be one more way for the administration to help fight drug use. But in a district as wealthy, secure, and policed as Southwest Allen County Schools (SACS), do hundreds of dollars each year for a dog to sniff out drugs sound like a wise investment? To the editorial board, it seems like overkill.

The editorial board understands that the administration feels compelled to take action against drugs in the high school. Administrators must find themselves between a rock and a hard place with this issue: some parents see every reason to pursue drugs at the expense of many student rights, others disagree.

Furthermore, by now the administration must be weary of police-work.

But influences aside, the editorial board cannot agree with SACS' unanimous decision to enact the drug dog beginning next year. There is a delicate line between meaningful, inexpensive, and effective methods of drug prevention, and obsession without regard to students' rights.

Those in favor of this addition argue that the cost is minimal, and any action designed to strengthen students' security is permissible. They certainly argue with the best intentions, but the cost of making this school a police state go beyond financial matters. The idea that students' lay down their rights when they enter Homestead cannot stand. Drug prevention is a necessity at any high school, but students do not grant their administrations a blank check: their rights should not be trampled on for prevention that is unreasonable and senseless. A $5,500 dollar animal trained to sniff students' lockers is and example of just such prevention.

This addition is overkill, in the most severe sense. In a school where 40 students are drug tested weekly, where book bags can be searched without probable cause, and police patrol the hallways, what sense does adding a dog make? But Student Resource Officer A.J. Pape seems to think it will make a major difference.

"When the dogs are in the schools, the drugs and weapons leave the schools," Pape said in an interview with Kelly Soderlund for the Journal Gazette.

To Pape and others, it appears to be that simple. After decades of almost uninterrupted teenage drug use, in a predominantly suburban, peaceful and policed high school, apparently SACS has found the golden key to drug prevention: a drug dog to sniff lockers. This editorial board sees no golden key; we see a well-meaning administration pressing an advantage on students' rights and wasting public money in the pursuit of an unreasonable method of drug prevention.

A riot of my own

Smaller schools offer superior learning

By Jim Katz
Writer

As I prepare to graduate and begin my collegiate career, I've been looking forward to the years ahead. I've gone through SAT prep, stressing over college interviews, and checking the mailbox for the big envelope. I've chosen to go to Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. It's a small school (only 1600 students), literally in the middle of nowhere. Well, actually right next to nowhere. It's a liberal arts school, which has nothing to do with political leaning, but rather with its core requirements, which ensures that each student receives at least a basic education in all the major fields of study.

Admittedly, these schools are significantly more competitive and expensive than most other schools, but there is quite often plenty of financial aid available. The great thing about these schools is that with as small as their student bodies are, they focus a great deal of their time on individuals and their concerns. They take their incoming freshmen's issues seriously, and are personally invested in created the most interesting mix of students for each graduating class.

I would like to make a side note here: the bigger schools (Indiana, Purdue, etc.) are great schools. They can give someone a great education, with far more resources than a school like Kenyon, for a much more reasonable price. The purpose of this column is not to discredit these schools, I am just making a case for smaller schools, like Kenyon, which don't receive the same publicity that the bigger schools receive.

So much of our educational system was created and continues to force-feed inane information without teaching the ability to think. You are told that those who are smarter than you have already done the thinking. All you need to do is earn your degree, get a job, move to the suburbs, have 2.5 kids, and you will live a happy and content life. This is not how the world should be.

I believe in a world where pragmatism and passion should overlap, where education is more than skin-deep, and where life is not a pre-cut path, but rather a venture through the untamed wilds of the heart. Kenyon and schools like it are places that feed passion, where the seeds of endless possibility flourish, to where more than just brilliant minds, but brilliant hearts flock to in search of something more, something greater than themselves.

mailbox

Drop off letters in room 620, call 431-2261, or e-mail us at thespartana@gmail.com

Dear Editors,

Nearly every issue of this year's Spartana has dealt with the issue of random drug testing. From the articles I've read and explanations I've heard, the administration is looking for something to take away from drug-using students. This is in fact why only the names of the students with driving privileges and/or membership in an extracurricular activity are tossed into the drug-testing "hat."

Students have called attention to the fact that many drug-using students carpool. Because the passengers do not have a parking permit, they are exempt from testing. Drug-users can hitch a ride from friends and keep their name off the "testable students" spread sheet.

Another frequent comment is that the number of non-driving, non-extracurricular drug users equals or outnumbers the number of drug users who are in an activity or drive.

For decades studies have shown that involvement in after-school sports, clubs, fine arts, and other organizations significantly decreases drug use by teens.

So what does all this mean?

The 1,609 students eligible for testing (those who either drive to school or belong to a school-sponsored activity) probably contain an equal or lower percentage of drug users than the remaining 400 students.

So why not make every single Homestead student a candidate for random drug testing?

Well, for starters, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that random drug testing of only student drivers, athletes, and club-members is constitutional (Pottawatomie vs. Earls, 1998.) This court decision raises some questions in my mind. Do administrators just need something to take away?

Athletes must hand in their jerseys, musicians must sit out the show. But does this expulsion from an activity really send the right message? Does sending a student home after school or in the middle of a show choir competition instead of keeping them for practice or performance deter the use of drugs?

In a system where the guilty lose something, why take away something good? In a system fueled by the search for drugs, my question is and has always been: how about taking away the drugs without taking away the person's passion?

Brad Zehr
Grade 11

For more info on random drug testing visit: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/studentdrugtesting/faq.html#faq1

Orchestra deserves more credit in yearbook

Dear Editor:

Looking through last year's yearbook always brings back lots of memories, specifically, I remember the first time I looked through the yearbook. I was excited and impressed by the quality and depth of the publication. There were so many good pictures as well as articles that covered most aspects of student life, from drama to baseball to business classes. I discovered there were lots of interesting groups, clubs, and activities that I had never heard about. The Retrospect publishing staff put together a truly memorable creation.

That said, my euphoria over such an amazing yearbook took a sudden drop when I began to look for coverage of the orchestra. It took quite awhile to find anything pertaining to orchestra until I came to the pep band page.

"Hey...wait...there's a picture with some violins in it. Maybe it's on this page," I thought. Crammed onto one page were three completely different musical groups: orchestra, pep band, and jazz band. Besides the fact that there were very few pictures of orchestra, the article was uninformative and often misleading about all three groups.

This article, found on page 193 of the Retrospect, begins, "For those who are not willing to put forth the time necessary for marching band, orchestra, pep band, and jazz band are alternative options." This statement is an insult to anyone in orchestra or jazz band, especially people who play violin, cello, viola, or string bass.

In case there is a misconception, string instruments do not march.

Although orchestra and jazz band do not have the extensive afterschool practices required for marching band, this does not mean their members are not dedicated to performing high level music. Although I play the clarinet and could be in marching band, I did not join orchestra because I don't have the dedication for marching band. I joined orchestra because I wanted to play orchestra music. Such is the case with many orchestra members. Most members of the jazz band are members of the marching band, although there are exceptions.

These students are very dedicated to and excited about learning a variety of jazz, including swing, funk, and latin styles of music. They also compete at ISSMA contest and perform at school concerts and the spring arts convocation. Information about what the jazz band accomplishes each year was completely missing from the 2004-2005 Retrospect.

The orchestra is a very active group of seventy students. We have afterschool and evening practices in the weeks leading up to concerts. Each year, the orchestra performs at a fall and spring concert, the spring fine arts convocation, and travels to several elementary schools to perform and educate students about the orchestra. We consistently receive Gold ratings at ISSMA contest. We also participate in a side by side concert with the Philharmonic each March. None of these events were mentioned in the inadequate coverage of the orchestra. Pep band is made up of marching band members who play pep music at home basketball games. There are no extra practices, and it is not an alternative to marching band.

As another school year comes to a close, the Retrospect publishing staff must take the time to cover the jazz band and orchestra much more throughly than last year. These two musical ensembles are unique and active groups. Homestead High School can be proud of their dedication to performing excellent jazz and orchestra music.

Rebekah Sims
Grade 10

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

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issue 11 volume 36
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Sports

Senior Integrity

Despite tough competition this season, the senior softball girls seek success in post-season. page 5

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

Andrew Rittenhouse (12) goes after a ground ball with an opponent close behind in an attempt to gain possession at a game against Westfield.

Lacrosse begins season with three victories

Students from various area schools come together to form Spartan lacrosse team

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

One of Homestead's most popular club sports, lacrosse, is starting and looking to have one of their best seasons yet. The team has several new faces and after several weeks of practicing in the cold weather, they feel they are ready for the toughest competition.

They opened up their season in South Bend on March 18, against LaPorte. The team came out strong, on their way to an 11-1 victory. Tyler Freeland (12) led the Spartans with three goals and two assists. Matt Mickulecky (12) added three goals and one assist, and Kirk Brown (11) had two goals and two assists.

Next, the Spartans played Washington. Washington is one of the better teams in the state and would be a tough early season test for the team. The guys came out hard and fought their way to a 14-8 victory over the Yellow Jackets. Brown had five goals and two assists, Freeland had four goals and three assists, and Mickulecky had two goals and one assist. This early season match showed the team that they could play with anyone in the state.

On March 24, the team traveled to Heritage Christian for a game against the #2 ranked team in the state. The Spartans fell 7-8 in double overtime of a hard fought game. Freeland led the team with three goals, and Brown had two goals. The next morning, the Spartans lost to Westfield. Later that night, the team beat Pike in double overtime to close out the weekend.

The team's varsity head coach is Ryan Ludera, and the JV coach is John Belote. One of the unique aspects of club sports is that students from other schools can join the Homestead team. There are several students from nearby Canterbury High School on the team as well. The team plays their home games at either the soccer fields by the fire station, or at the soccer stadium for night games.

After a short rest for spring break, the team returns to action on April 15 with a game at 10 a.m. against Guerin, and then at 5p.m. against Brebeuf Jesuit. Then they play Lafayette and Saint Joseph on April 22. Then the team plays another rival, Snider, on April 26. They play in Zionsville on May 6, against Bloomington Club and Zionsville. On May 10, they play another local rival in Bishop Luers. The Spartans finish out their season on May 13, at home against Concord.

"Our team is really good this year," Mickulecky said. "The core guys from last year improved a lot and our team is a lot closer and we are more of a team."

With a mix of several first time players and college bound veterans, the team in optimistic that they can keep playing well throughout the season.

Before and after a game, the team comes together by putting their sticks up.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Apr. 15 - Guerin and Brebeuf Jesuit
Apr. 22 - Saint Joseph
Apr. 26 - Snider

Baseball team hopes to continue success from last year

By Tim Clark
Writer

The team has been picked. The grass has been cut. The outfield fence has been repaired. The only thing missing is the warm spring weather that is soon to come. Do not worry baseball fans, it is coming. Baseball season has once again rolled around for the Homestead Spartans and this year's team is looking to build on the success of last years club.

The Spartans had a remarkable season last year starting the season on a twelve game winning streak and being ranked as high as fourth in the 4-A state poll. The Spartans capped off the impressive year with a come from behind victory against the Snider Panthers in the sectional championship game winning the school's fifth sectional title; the first since 1994.

Given their success, Homestead graduated a good amount of its team last year, leaving the team with only a handful of returning players. Homestead's biggest loss comes in the form of team-leader Ryan Chenoweth, who tied the Homestead record for homeruns in a season and broke the season records for runs scored, doubles, and runs batted in. Despite the losses from last year, Coach Keith Potter believes that this year's team will be a dark horse in the area.

"I think we're probably going to surprise a lot of people because we lost so much talent last year," Potter said. "Last year we had a great group of seniors, but we've got some good returning people. Plus we have the juniors coming up from the undefeated JV team last year so a lot of people don't know who they are, but they will realize that they are very good baseball players so they will fill in the spots vacated by the guys that graduated."

Leading the group of new players will be four seniors returning from last year's team. Those seniors are: Jordan Meeks, Brain Robbins, Jimmy Kawiecki, and Taylor Kinzer.

"Those four guys have been around the program and know what is expected," Potter said. "With this being a lot of guys first year on varsity they need to show them the way as far as proper work ethic and getting ready for each game at the varsity level so we need the leadership out of those four."

For this year's team, winning conference is Potter's main goal. He also believes that winning the sectionals again should be another goal his players take into account. To achieve these goals Potter hopes that his players can build around a strong work ethic. One of his seniors, Jimmy Kawiecki, is helping to do just that.

"Our goal, this year, is to try to make it to state," Kawiecki said. "There is no doubt about it that we have the talent, but it will just take a lot of work. I was talking to Taylor a few weeks ago about getting extra practice in, and he is going to try and keep as many of us as possible after practices this year to work on what we need to improve in."

Kawiecki believes that this year's success will rely on how well the pitchers step up to this year's competition. Homestead lost quite a few quality pitchers last year so Homestead's young pitching could be a cause for concern.

"We had a lot of success last year," Kawiecki said. "If our pitching really steps it up then I think we could equal last years success because we definitely have the hitting power to put runs on the board."

Even though Homestead lost a good amount of last year's starters, some of the younger players feel that there is still a lot of experience supporting this team.

"We have three returning sophomore starters," Kyle Sherer said. "All three of us: Me, Ryan Cicero, and Kyle Leiendecker played in the sectional games (last year) so there is still some experience. We also have some good senior leadership in Taylor Kinzer, Brian Robbins, Jimmy Kawiecki, and Jordan Meeks so there are still a lot of guys that were a part of the sectional team last year."

Homestead opens the season on the road at Blackford on Apr. 4 at 4:30 p.m. Then Homestead's home opener comes in the form of a double-header on April 8 against Marion with the first game starting at 12:00 p.m. For the complete schedule, go to the Spartan's Baseball webpage connected to Homestead home page under spring sports.

Players have hopeful outlook for upcoming girls tennis season

By Laura Summers
Writer

After a disappointing end to last year's tennis season, the girls varsity team has high hopes for this year.

Two years ago, the varsity team made it all the way to the finals in the state tennis competition. Finishing second, it was a successful end to a great season. However, last year's post-season competition came to an abrupt close after not making it to semi-state.

Although last year's results were upsetting, this year's team is both optimistic and confident. With the addition of several promising freshmen, the varsity roster has a lot of experience to carry the team far.

Amy Recht (11) is one of the team's best singles players. She is on the number one singles team. On varsity since she was a freshmen, she was the only member of last year's team to go to state for the individual competition. She has been playing tennis for quite some time, and she manages to find time to practice everyday with either her dad or brother at the Wildwood Racquet Club.

"I'm pretty excited about this season. We've got a strong line of seniors returning and their leadership helps everyone do their best. We also have some freshmen that are really good, too, so that's definitely promising," Recht said.

Some of these seniors (there are a total of five) include Caitlin Myers, Erin Wright, and Melissa Martin. Also, Jade Johnson (9) shows a lot of promise for this and the upcoming years. Martin and Wright make up the number one doubles team.

The team has been conditioning everyday by running indoors to prepare for the actual season. The girls also try to make it out to Wildwood to work on their different strokes and serves.

The team's first match is the first Tuesday after Spring Break (Apr. 11). Usually, meets are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and some invitationals are held out of town on Saturdays.

There are seven girls on the varsity team. Along with the reserve roster, there are three exhibition-type teams (blue, gold, and white) who compete as long as the opposing team has extra players as well. For the post-season, fourteen girls are selected to compete during sectionals.

Head coach Jim Shull leads the team with assistance from Todd Ruppert. Shull has been the head coach for several years and has even invented a device to help the girls practice getting their balls over the net every time.

Recht is definitely hopeful for the entire season.

"I know the competition is tough, so of course I would love to make it back to state this year and even get past the final four into the final match. With a lot of hard work, I think I could even maybe win the state competition. I'm just looking forward to the whole season and I hope that the team makes it far this year," Recht said.

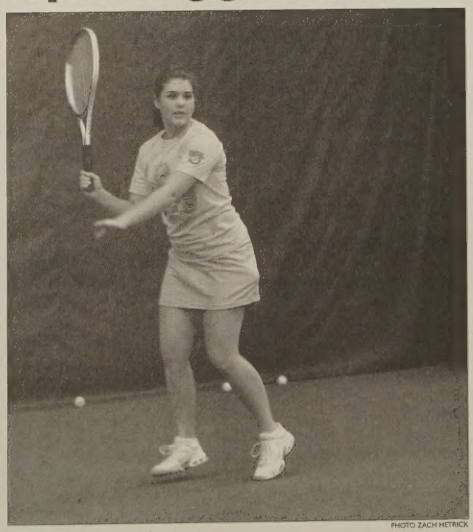


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

Erin Wright (12) prepares to hit a tennis ball in a rally at a practice game at Wildwood. Wright, as well as the other girls on the team, try to make it out to Wildwood for extra practice for their upcoming season. Melissa Martin (12), Wright's double partner, along with the other three returning seniors, all hope to go all the way to the final rounds of the state competition this year unlike last season.

ONE LAST CHANCE

Softball seniors yet to advance past sectionals, look to take advantage of this year's strong team chemistry

PHOTOS BY KARA WALL

Beth McCullough (12), Maria Didier (12), Marita Rondot (12) and the rest of the softball team celebrate their win over Concordia that took place on Tuesday, March 28 at Homestead.

By Luke Chase
Writer

The softball team has been preparing for this season with open gym sessions held after school since last fall. The season finally came to a start this past week for the girls after their opening game against Heritage was canceled due to cold. All this aside the girls are prepared and ready to take on the coming season.

The softball team starts open gym practice at the beginning of October. These practices are optional because the season doesn't officially start until the beginning of March.

At a normal practice the team will start off stretching and running. If they are inside they will run six to seven laps around the gym but two laps if the team is outside. Next, the team throws together while some of the girls go use the batting cages. The practices then turn to a simulation of real-game situations. The practice ends with live pitching. Homestead plays fast pitch softball.

"Only a few teams that we play this year will be easy to beat. Our season is pretty tough this year," Varsity Pitcher Maria Didier (12) said.

The team's first game (since the Heritage game was canceled) was played on Tuesday, March 28. The team beat Concordia 9-1. Beth McCullough was the winning pitcher for the game. McCullough had a solid outing. She pitched a complete game and struck out all three batters to end the final inning.

The Varsity team is coached by Tom Clagg (head coach) and Shannon Hardick (assistant coach). The team roster consists of 18 girls, some of whom play both varsity and junior varsity.

The varsity team plays 28 games in preparation for sectionals from May 23 through May 26. Sectionals will be played at Homestead. If the team can stay in, the regional and state competitions carry on into June.

The main rivals in the past for the varsity team have been Snider, DeKalb and Norwell as well as a few other large schools in the area.

"I think our team this year is very capable of making it past sectionals. We set high goals for ourselves before the season and winning sectionals was one of them. I think our batting and defense is as strong, if not stronger, then it's been," said McCullough.

"We'd like to win conference and sectionals and beat competitive teams. This year teams will underestimate us because we lost eight seniors but we have seven that are ready to go and are just as capable as last year and are able to fill their positions," Chelsea Vickerman (12) said.

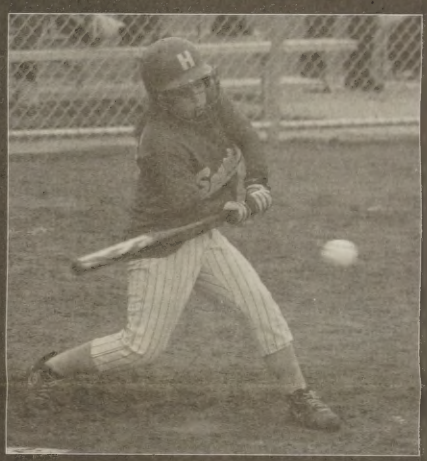
The junior varsity team lost a lot of talent with the graduation of last year's girls onto varsity but they were also replaced by good players, said JV third baseman Kelsey Lamphier (11).

The JV game against Heritage was also canceled and the teams next game is scheduled to be on April 10 at Homestead against South Side.

Lamphier also has high hopes for the team's season.

"I think we should be able to do pretty well, possibly even win conference," said Lamphier.

The regular JV season ends on May 15.



Marita Rondot (12) bats during the game against Concordia at home.

Record start encouraging for boys

Track members hope indoor records foreshadow NHC trophy

By Sam Vanhorn
Writer

After finishing last season tied for best in the conference, the boys varsity track and field team looks to repeat another first place finish.

"We wanted to win the conference outright last season," Taylor Pyle (11) said. "This year we should be able to do that."

The first meet of the year was indoors at Anderson University. The Spartans had some great individual accomplishments as they broke three meet records for Homestead athletes. Ben Townsend (12) ran the 1600 and finished with a time of 4:47. Also setting meet records were Jon Kopecky (12) and Kyle Knezovich (11) in the field events. Kopecky threw the shot-put 48.2 feet, and Knezovich competed in the long jump with a leap of 18 feet five inches.

"He should have a really good year," Nick Edwards (10) said about Kopecky. "He's already throwing well real early in the year."

The next indoor meet was held at Huntington High School, on February 25. The Spartans continued their great opening to the year with Townsend running the 800 in 2:08. Mike Townsend (10) finished the 3200 in 10:58. In the field events, Kopecky threw the shot 45.3 feet and second best was Derek Layton (12) with 43.2 feet. Setting a field house record in poll vaulting, Hunter Hall (11) finished his best trial with a jump of 15 feet six inches..

On March 7, the Spartans traveled to Huntington College for their third indoor meet of the season. Dan Haught (9) sprinted in the 55 meter dash finishing with a time of 6.90 seconds. In the 400, Ross Heckber (10) finished with a time of 57.7 seconds, and behind him were Haught, Andy Alvarez (10), and Anthony Baron (9) who were all a little over 60 seconds. In the field events, Knezovich lead the team in both the high jump and long jump. He leaped 5 feet 10 inches in the high jump and had a season best 19 feet 5 inch jump in the long jump.

Traveling to Purdue on March 11, the Spartans only took a few individuals to compete because the meet placed a limit on the number of athletes that each school could bring. In the 55 meter hurdles, Tyler Mackey (12) finished with a time of 8.33 seconds and Heckber was behind him with 8.39 seconds. In the 55 meter dash, Alvarez sprinted a season best 6.86 seconds. The Spartans competed in two field events, the long jump and shot-put. Houlihan jumped 18 feet 5 inches and Kopecky lead the team once again with a throw of 47 feet seven inches.

As the Spartans finish up their indoor events, they will try to get back to where they left off last season after not having competed as a team for a year. With a few individuals already setting team records, the Spartans seem to have gotten off to an already strong start and look to continue that success further into the season, hopefully all the way to a conference title.

Hunter Hall (11) competes in the pole vaulting competition during a meet.

PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK

Steve Clark (12) passes the baton to Bryce Heckber (12) during a relay race.

Girls track fights weather

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

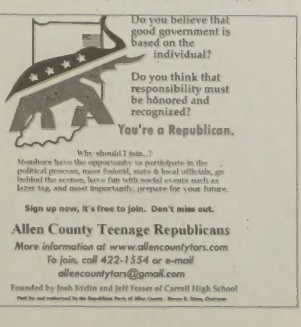
Due to the cold weather, the only meets that the girls have been able to participate in have been the three indoor meets at Anderson, Purdue, and Indiana University. For these three meets, only a select handful of girls have competed and only Katie Veith (11) and Stephanie Mitchell (11) qualified to compete in the finals at Indiana University. The most recent meet that they were supposed to compete in outdoors was cancelled because of the wind and bitterly cold temperatures.

"Our last meet was cancelled because of the weather," Kati Beutler (11) said. "It is hard on the player's shins to run inside all the time because of the cold weather we have outside."

The toughest competition that the girls track and field team will have to compete against is Northrop, whom they will have to face Wednesday, March 29. If the weather holds out, this will be their first outdoor meet. After losing a lot of their talent, including last year senior Hannah Weide, the girls were lucky enough to gain a lot of strength from the freshmen class.

The team this year is held up with a lot of returning senior varsity letter winners, such as Kathryn Zachman (12), Elaine Gemple (12), Whitney Johnston (12), Emily Nestel (12), and many more. The team is also fortunate with the junior representation, with Veith, Mitchell, and Beutler, who are all also varsity and have contributed a lot to the team so far. The team is expected to go far, and have high hopes for running in State.

"I think we have a lot of potential and we have been working really hard in practices," Beutler said. "We have not had any meets for all the players to test our ability, yet."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Founded by Josh Mellin and Jeff Fraser of Carroll High School

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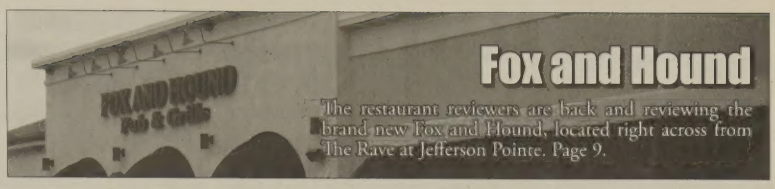


Fox and Hound

The restaurant reviewers are back and reviewing the brand new Fox and Hound, located right across from The Rave at Jefferson Pointe. Page 9.

Monday night at 7:17, students gather together at Chestnut Hills Club House or in somebody's basement for

CAMPUS LIFE

By Kelly Childs
Writer

At 7:17 every Monday night, a group of Homestead students meet for Campus Life. Each week the location changes, because different students host the meeting in their house. During the course of the evening, students play games, talk with their friends, and discuss issues relevant to other teenagers.

"We play lots of goofy games, hang out with friends, and talk about important issues. We talk about things that interests me, and it is cool, because it allows me to see both sides of the spectrum on the issues we discuss," Brian Laipple (11) said.

The games vary each week, but they usually create jokes, laughter, and even screams. The games have been known to involve shaving cream, water balloons, cow tongues, ten person pyramids, and other unusual items. While kids go to Campus Life for different reasons, they all agree it is a lot of fun.

"I think I go every week because of the games we play. Plus being out with friends on a school night is fun. It's like a hang out place on a Monday night," said Lindsay Baker (11).

Whitney Johnson (12) also enjoys spending time with her friends and likes the craziness of the evenings. She also feels it is a cool way for her to share her faith with other kids.

"It's a cool way to talk about God. It's not church where you go and listen to a priest for an hour. I go to a Catholic church, so Campus Life gives me a new way to experience Christ and get other perspectives on issues," Johnson said.

Baker also feels that Campus Life is a great way for her to learn more about God.

"Campus Life really opens you up, and takes you out of your comfort zone. I only go to church on Sunday morning, and I only listen in church. In Campus Life, I am an active participant. It's the one that really has helped me grow with my walk, especially the trips," Baker said.

Each year, Campus Life offers a few trips and retreats to help students strengthen their faith and become closer to God. Last summer, some of the members traveled to Colorado for a nationwide retreat. Campus Life also takes a spring break trip every year, and this year they are going to Vero Beach, Florida.

They also attend their annual local retreat, called GoMad.

The past year it was held at the Chapel and brought in kids from all over the state to share their faith. These trips usually involve guest motivational speakers, bands, plenty of games, and bonding time.

Campus Life has other yearly events that involve the entire community. The student auction, called Bid on a Kid, is held every year to help raise money to fund Campus Life.

Students form groups with their friends, come up with a service they can provide, and then auction themselves off to parents who would like their service. Kids perform things such as yard work, babysitting, house cleaning, and swim lessons. Another fundraiser, which seems to be a favorite among students, is the Egg and Beg. To earn money, Campus Life kids go around neighborhoods door to door and offer to smash an egg over their head for money.

Actually, they offer to pour anything over their head that the household wants to see smashed over their head. By the end of the night, students usually have an assortment of gooey food entangled in their hair. The mess, however, pays off. The event is one of the biggest fundraisers for Campus Life.

For those thinking of attending, Laipple says definitely come and try it out.

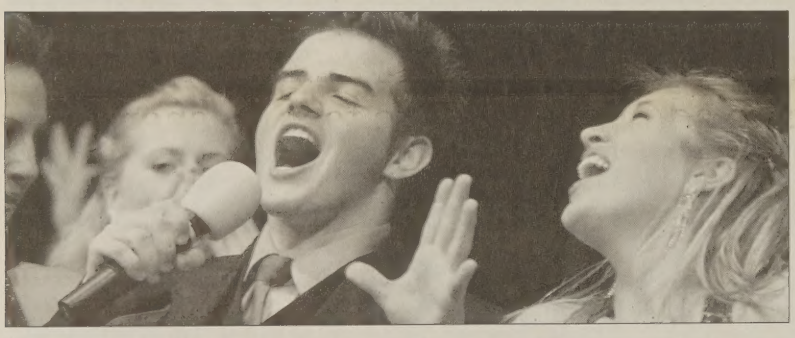
"People should come, because it's fun. Lots of people think it's exclusive, but it's not. It's not like you have to have a Campus Life membership. Anybody can come, it can be a spur of the moment thing. Go one night and if you like it you can come back," said Laipple.

Many students go for their first time because friend invites them, and they end up liking it so much that they return every Monday night.

Top: Barak Coolman speaks to Campus Life members at Bid on a Kid. Above: Coolman talks with Katie Thomas (11).

CAMPUS LIFE INFO

Monday nights from 7:17 to 8:30. The location varies each week. Sometimes it is held at Chestnut Hills Club House. See Barak Coolman for more info.



Show Choir ends on high note

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

The Seventh Annual Homestead High School Show Choir Invitational took place on Saturday March 18. This was an important date for 23 show choirs who came to Homestead from four different states to participate. The competition began at 8:00 A.M. and lasted until 11:00 P.M, proving to be a long day for all of the choirs. The Grand Champion for the second year straight was the First Edition from Lafayette Jefferson. The Norwell Knight Stars were crowned the Women's champion, while the middle school champion was Fort Wayne's Memorial Park.

"The shows of all the groups were really very good but I was hoping Franklin Central would win, the group that I hosted. They were First Runner Up," said Ally Vallaincourt (11).

The Members of Homestead's Class Royale, Elite, and Anonymous Blue (AB) played host to the members of the visiting choirs. The 98 members of these three groups stayed at school and transformed Homestead into a Show Choir Showcase. They as well as many parents worked for hours to prepare the school for the competition. The gym and auditorium became venues for group performances. A solo competition, which was hosted by Kristina Kartholl (12) and Meg Warner (11) ran simultaneously with the other venues. Many classrooms were assigned to visiting schools and were used as their homerooms. Another classroom became a coffee house for individuals or small groups to perform impromptu acts. The cafeteria and commons were set up to sell a variety of specialty items. Many local venders were present to sell food and drinks. A few of these included Chick-fil-a, Moe's, Starbucks, and Dairy Queen.

The Showcase Invitational has become a very successful fundraiser for Homestead's show choirs. This year was not an exception. Since Homestead attracts local choirs as well as out of state choirs, many family members are able to attend performance. A number of Homestead students also attended to watch the final performances of Class Royale, Elite, and Anonymous Blue.

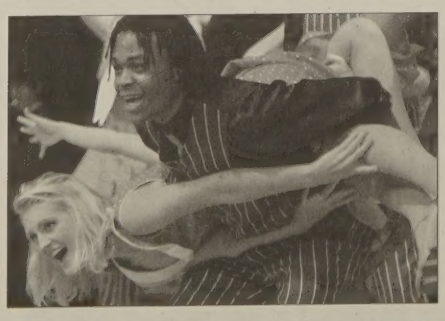
"I wish that more students could come to see the show but I was happy to see the ones that were able to attend," Kate Taylor (10) said.

This event brought the competition season to an end for the show choirs. Both choirs performed their routines for the last time this season. This performance provided everyone a chance to enjoy the show without the pressure of competition. Elite and AB performed first at 5:30 P.M. and then Class Royale and AB performed at 10:30 P.M. These two shows provided entertaining, crowd-pleasing numbers. The crowd gave a standing ovation to both groups.

"Because we performed right before finals, we had the biggest crowd we've had all year. It was amazing to have so many people cheering us on," said Kristina Vragovic (10).

The 2006 Homestead Show Choir Invitational was again quite successful. Well over a thousand people attended the fund-raising event.

"This year I really enjoyed working as a host for Norwell's girl's show choir. I actually made a few friends with them. Other than our performance, making friends and talking to students from other schools was the best part of the day," said Lori Panyard (10).



Left: Ally Vaillencourt (11) dances during a recent show choir competition. Above: Kenneth Perkins (12) swings Allison Douglas (11) during a routine at a show choir competition.

Secrets behind Club Stash

By Laura Summers
Writer

Many people have heard about and even been in attendance, but an equal number of students have no clue what it is. Some even pretend to be "in the know," but you cannot appreciate this party until you experience it first hand.

This is Club Stash. It's a hip party open to any and every clique at school. If you and your friends are into techno, or even if you just love to dance, this is the place for you.

About a year ago, Spencier Lehman (10) had an idea to get a bunch of people together and just have a dance party. She passed this thought along to Stephen "Stash" Armstrong (12) and he offered up his garage to be the location.

Although many people might be confused about this party, the concept is actually quite simple. At first, Stash's garage had to be soundproofed as well as possible. Next, all the stereo equipment had to be set up properly with all the right music (techno, of course). A fog machine and different strobe lights were necessary to have the best effect. Once all the materials were bought, the only things needed were the bodies for dancing.

The majority of the people involved in the creation of Club Stash, commonly known simply as "CS", have some connection to the marching band. Armstrong has been on the band's drumline for four years. Although some may think since the majority of attendees are in band that the party is exclusive, that could not be further from the truth. If you have five dollars (that is the entrance fee to help pay for all the materials and food) you are completely welcome at CS.

"We pretty much just wanted to come up with something new and unusual so we wouldn't have to be bored. The best part about the party is the music; it's awesome to get the entire room full of people," Armstrong said.

Tina Sheedy (11) is also a part of the setup of Club Stash. She was dating one of Armstrong's closest friends who also helped with starting the party, Brad Kleinhans ('05), when she first became involved.

"The first two hours are sometimes kind of slow, but by the end of the night, the space is usually packed with different people," Sheedy said.

Sadly, once Aboite Township got annexed, CS could no longer be held at Armstrong's house. There is a law that loud music cannot be heard from a house 150 feet away. Since his garage could not be completely soundproofed, something had to be done. No law could stop CS from happening. The party relocated to other houses, including Andrew Reiman's (10), who has a very open yard. Most recently, after MORP, Club Stash was held at Aldersgate.

Armstrong tries to hold Club Stash at least once a month, and it is always on a Friday that is not full of sports events. This is to allow more people the opportunity to check out the scene. The next CS is scheduled for Apr. 23.

"I always have a good time at CS. It's a fun environment for me to catch up with everyone still at Homestead," Kleinhans said.

Armstrong is still planning to continue Club Stash after he graduates. "I just think it's a good alternative to being stupid and getting drunk; and since all sorts of people come, you always meet someone new there," Armstrong said.

Next time you hear someone mention "CS", you, too, can be in the know. So give it a shot; check it out.

"If the music doesn't get you, the lights will," Sheedy said.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Fox and Hound

The food crew has mixed reviews of the food and service

By Annie Baenen, Zach Hetrick, and Tyler Churchward
Food Reviewers

Annie: Fox and Hound, located right across from The Rave at Jefferson Pointe, opened a couple of weeks ago in place of Red Star Tavern. When you first enter, the bar is in a separate room on the right, and on the left is a room with tables and booths. There is loud music playing, creating a very fun vibe for the younger crowd. The menu is huge. It has a variety of choices from burgers, to salads, to sandwiches, to chicken tenders and fish and chips. There are also a wide variety of side dishes and appetizers. A few of the appetizers are wings, nachos, fries, mozzarella sticks, and potato skins.

Tyler: We got 10 medium wings for an appetizer, with ranch on the side (a must for wings). They weren't very spicy, which is probably good for Ann because she is a wimp when it comes to hot stuff. They tasted pretty good though.

Zach: I ordered the backyard grill. This was their version of a bacon cheeseburger. The burger was not exceptional, but not terrible. The service was also on par with most restaurants in the area. The atmosphere was nice if you were going to watch a game. There is an abundance of televisons and speakers in all the seating areas. Fox and Hound was not exceptional by any means, but easily could become a hangout.

Annie: I ordered the basic chicken tender entrée. It came with six deep fried chicken tenders and French fries. It also came with honey mustard for dipping and cole slaw. The chicken was thickly breaded and the fries were soggy—I wouldn't recommend it. It cost about nine dollars, which I thought was ridiculous for chicken tenders.

Tyler: I got the beer battered fish and chips. They weren't the worst I've ever had, but they were far from the best. The breading wasn't that good. Like Ann said, the fries were soggy.

Annie: To sum up my experience at Fox and Hound, I would say it was alright. Not great, but definitely not horrible. I will definitely cut them some slack considering they just opened. The service was good and the employees were nothing but friendly. For Zach, Tyler, and I's meal, it ended up costing around forty dollars. I thought it was very over-priced for the quality of the food.

Tyler: Our waitress seemed kind of crabby. She gave us good service, but, come on, let's try and be at least somewhat cheery. I'm not picky at all when it comes to service and food, but I was just not that impressed.

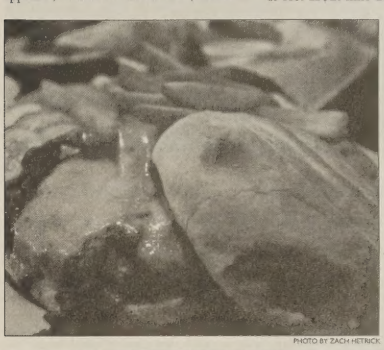


PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

FOX AND HOUND INFO

HOURS:
Monday-Saturday: 11-3
Sunday: 11-12:30

BuffaloChips $6.49
Classic Cheese Burger $6.99

$.35 Wings on Monday
Fish and Chips $7.69
Chicken Fingers $8.49

Arctic Monkeys hit number one again in the UK

By Tyler Churchward
Business Editor

This issue's band is generating the biggest stir in the United Kingdom since The Beatles, and for good reason. The Arctic Monkeys do not play overly complex music, but it sounds awesome. Very similar to The Clash, Franz Ferdinand, and Bloc Party, Arctic Monkeys has already had two number one hits in the UK. Their debut album, "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not," is the fastest-selling debut album of all time. Arctic Monkeys jam hard; don't expect too many mellow songs, but do expect cool guitar riffs.

The album starts off with a not-so-great song, "The View From the Afternoon". It's not necessarily bad, but pretty much every other song on this CD is better. The next song, "I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor", was their first big hit. This would be a great song to dance to and has a great guitar part in the beginning.

"Fake Tales of San Fransisco" has a nice beat to it. There is one line of the song I really like, and I don't know why I do so much, but the line says, "and all that's left is the proof that love's not only blind but deaf."

"Dancing Shoes" is a solid song, but, like many of the other songs on Whatever People Say, it's on the short side; the song is under two and a half minutes long. "You Probably Couldn't See For the Lights But You Were Staring Straight at Me" is mediocre.Give it a listen, I don't think it's all that great.

"Still Take You Home" has the typical Arctic Monkeys sound—quick tempo, lots of noise; it's a pretty good song. "Riot Van" is one of the few laid-back songs on the album, but it definitely deserves a listen.

"Red Light Indicates Doors are Secured" is, in a word, pointless. I'm not saying the song is bad, because I like it, but it just makes no sense. "Mardy Bum" is about a moody girlfriend—we've all been there before. "I see your frown and it's like looking down the barrel of a gun, and it goes off, and out comes all these words…there's a very pleasant side to you, a side I much prefer."

"Perhaps Vampires Is a Bit Strong But…" is my favorite song on the album. The beat is just awesome, and the guitar sounds really nice with the drum accompaniment. "When the Sun Goes Down" is kind of lame. I'm not a big fan of this one.

"From the Ritz to the Rubble" is another spectacular song on the CD, and it happens to be one of the longer songs, coming in at just over three minutes. The song, like many other songs on this album, has a very catchy bass riff and a few guitars playing different things all at once. The last song, "A Certain Romance", is over five minutes long and starts off with what sounds like an alternative rock drum and guitar intro, but suddenly changes to a light, pop-punk sound.

Arctic Monkeys is fast becoming one of my favorite bands. Like I said earlier, their music isn't ridiculously complex, nor are their lyrics life changing, but the music is, in a word, fun. It's just something fun to listen to.

Stay Alive attempts to add new flavor to teen slasher genre

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Hutch MacNeil (Jon Foster) is the ring-leader of a hard-core group of gaming buddies. Together, they take on warlocks and witches throughout cyberspace. No doubt two of the most hideous words any of them can hear are "Game Over." Little do they realize the sheer significance of that phrase, especially when it could be the difference between life and death.

Hutch's life has been filled with pain and suffering. He lost his mother after his father torched the family house. The fire left Hutch with a nasty scar and a deathly fear of fire. But things only get worse when three of Hutch's gaming buddies are brutally murdered. At their funeral, one of the victim's sisters gives Hutch a bag with the friend's laptop and all of his video games.

One of them, a beta game named Stay Alive, Hutch determines to be the last game his friends were playing before they were murdered. Hutch and his friends, Swink Sylvania (Frankie Muniz), October Bantum (Sophia Bush), Phineus Bantum (Jimmi Simpson), and Hutch's boss Miller (Adam Goldberg), decide to pay homage to their late pals by beating the game that they were last playing.

The gothic horror game pits its players against the undead minions of the ruthless, bloodthirsty Elizabeth Bathory. The gamers sense something is not right, however, when they have to recite a chilling séance before they can enter the game.

Their suspicions are soon confirmed. Miller's game character meets a brutal end at the hands of Countess Bathory via a pair of shards through the neck. The next morning, Hutch finds police investigating the real murder of Miller, via (again) a pair of shards through the neck.

At first, the remaining friends pass off the incident as mere coincidence, but upon further investigation, they discover the first group of friends were also killed in the same fashion as in the game. The sinister happenings continue and they soon realize that the game is now playing them.

One by one, the Countess is coming for each of them, and it becomes apparent that death in the game means death in real life. As the body count rises, Hutch and the surviving gamers must race against time to uncover the long-kept secret of the Countess before she hunts down and systematically murders each of them.

Gamers out there looking for a movie to fit their senseless hobbies should most definitely stick to Halo.

Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Stay Alive does its best to add a new flavor to an all-too familiar and overdone teen slasher genre. And although it fails to deliver a whole lot of worthwhile material, it does keep its viewers interested and on the edge of their seats, despite some glaring problems in the script.

As the game begins, it is made clear the only way to defeat the Countess is to discover the mystery of her manor. The viewers are never given that. [Spoiler Warning] Even though a few of the members of the group survive the game, they do by killing the Countess, not by discovering her secrets.

Therefore, viewers are left wondering what the mystery actually was. Also, it is unclear whether victory in the game will bring back Hutch's fallen comrades. This problem becomes even more confusing when, at the end of the film, we see one of those previously dead friends alive and well. The others, however, are nowhere to be seen, and the viewers never know their whereabouts.

As with any slasher flick, Stay Alive has its share of violence. For the most part, however, the violence is contained and only the aftermath of the murders is shown. This makes the movie bearable to witness, which is more than can be said of this season's shock-and-awe bloodfest, Hostel.

Plain and simple, Stay Alive is nothing special. The violence has been toned down enough to attract young viewers looking for a mindless thrill, but it lacks substance. The movie's glaring plot holes leave a bad taste in viewers' mouths and it fails to deliver anything that has never been seen before, despite a decent effort. Gamers out there looking for a movie to fit their senseless hobbies should most definitely stick to Halo.

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ADVERTISE

Eye Contact: Skaters

a photo essay by zach herrick

Despite stereotypes of clothing, attitude, and mischief, skaters and roller bladers practice their sport and hone their skills at local park

By Steve Whisler
Writer

No matter how it became ingrained in our minds, the stigma of the skateboarder is clear. The hair, the wardrobe, the music. All the defining characteristics that make up our first impressions of seeing someone for the first time. The label follows, branded as though it were written on their forehead. Goth. Band geek. Stoner. Jock. Perhaps no stereotype is quite as potent, though than that of a skater.

It is with this blatant label that it often goes unnoticed that there is a sport behind the stereotype. Isaac Desanto (11) recognizes the stereotype. Desanto's father has been an amateur skateboarder for years, building over 20 vertical ramps along the way and originally peaking Isaac's interest in the sport.

"I actually rollerblade," Desanto was quick to point out. "My dad stopped skateboarding and began roller blading around the time when I was born. He's the one who got me started." Desanto concedes that the stereotype also applies to roller bladers. One stereotype that Desanto dispelled was that skaters and roller bladers are fight a lot. "Basically, skateboarders and roller bladers get along well."

According to Desanto, skateboarders are perceived most as deviant troublemakers. Though many people try to dissolve this assumption, there were several reports of violence just weeks after the Lawton Skate Park opened downtown to the public. In some instances, skate park patrons reported having knives pulled on them at the park. This raised concerns among parents of kids who frequented the park, and even the mayor's office, city council members, and Police Chief Rusty York.

Desanto, a regular at the park, does not attribute this to people who skated at Lawton, but rather from people who hung out outside the park, simply loiterers.

"Most of the problems are from kids who just sit there," Desanto said. Not all students agree that the problems are not brought upon the skaters by themselves . One student, (12), who wished to remain anonymous, responded to the skateboarder's plight by blatantly jabbing,

"Quit crying and get a job."

Though not a popular sentiment, this view is certainly echoed enough to stir up dissent and further embellish the fissure that divides many of the archetypal cliques of the school.

And all of this, because of a simple sport.

"I just do it because it is fun." Michael Hoffman (11) said. "My friends told me to try it and I liked it."

While Desanto attributes much of his enjoyment of skateboarding to the lack of organization, it is also this very lack of organization that leaves skateboarding in the dark compared to other sports. For example, Desanto argues, the knife touting incident at Lawton would never have been tolerated at a baseball diamond. Similar episodes also seemingly point out a disparity between skateboarding and other, more mainstream sports.

When some skaters brought a shopping cart into a park to ride, it incited a callous feud with a patrolling police officer. He officer ended up heaving the shopping cart over a fence, then added insult to injury by tossing it into a nearby river. Though it could be argued that the officer was looking out for the interests of the park, the officer's bias is evident towards skateboarders through his volatile reaction to the incident. The conflict between policemen and skateboarders can trace its lineage through "No Skateboarding" signs lining city streets and run-ins with local officers.

But skateboarders, roller bladers, and the stereotypes that follow them, are not likely to disappear anytime soon.

"People look at is as some sort of rebellion- but it's really not," Desanto said.

Top: Isaac Desanto (11) performs a Fakie 360 at Lawton Park. Isaac started rollerblading after watching his father skate. The skate park opened in 2003. Above: Jonathan Park (9) performs the skating world's most popular trick, the "Ollie," which was invented in the 1970's by Alan "Ollie" Gelfand.

Above: Isaac Desanto (11) pulls a Switch Soul on a box at the skate park. Right: Isaac Desanto waits for the box to open up at the skate park. Far right: Michael Hoffman (11) rides his board during a recent outing at the skate park. Hoffman says that he is still a novice in the sport.

LEARN THE LINGO: SKATEBOARDING

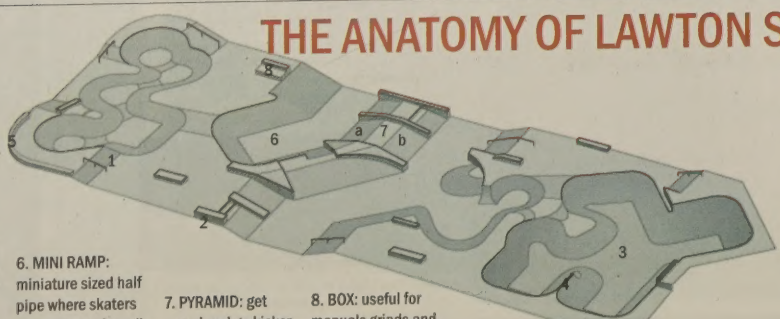
OLLIE: When a skater gets his board and himself off the ground with the use of only his legs.

KICKFLIP: As the boarder ollies he uses his foot to flick the board into a barrel role sort of motion and lands back on as it completes a full rotation.

GRIND: Using your board (or skates) to get on to a rail or ledge and using your trucks (or plates) to slide across the surface.

SHOVE-IT: A boarder uses his feet to spin the board horizontally under his feet and lands on it as it completes a half or full spin.

THE ANATOMY OF LAWTON SKATEPARK



1. RAILS: where boarders hit boardslides, 50-50 grinds, feebles and other big grinds

2. EURO: a kicker ramp up to a set of stairs

3. BIG BOWL: an opportunity for skaters to hit it big

4. SPINE: where two quarter-pipes meet at a coping and is useful for stalls of any kind

5. LEDGE: nose, tail, or blunt slide it, also serves as a sitting / resting area for fatigued skaters

6. MINI RAMP: miniature sized half pipe where skaters do a variety of small but technical tricks

7. PYRAMID: get speed and go kicker (a)-to-kicker(b)

8. BOX: useful for manuals grinds and flips

INFO BOX: MICHAEL BUCHANAN

SPECIAL INSERT volume 36
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A SPARTANA EXCLUSIVE

SPECIAL INSERT

THE VARSITY DANCE TEAM IS NUMBER IN THE WORLD

With a first place finish in the Jazz category at the international competition

By Katie Corson
Associate Life Editor

Just a few short weeks ago Homestead's Varsity dance team was collecting state trophies for first in lyrical and second in jazz, but the roar of the crowd had barely faded before the girls began preparing for their next big competition; a trip to Florida for the AmeriDance National Competition.

Two years ago the team traveled to AmeriDance Nationals for the first time and returned home National Champions. Last October the team competed in a Regional AmeriDance competition. They received first at Regionals, qualifying them for the National Competition in Florida. The girls were excited at repeating.

"Winning was definitely a focus. We kind of knew what to expect because the team two years ago had been [to Nationals]. They saw that they could do really well and rank really well with the teams that were there," Co-Head Coach Jennifer Bay said. "In the same light, we didn't know how the company had grown over the past two years. But we still wanted to go down and be champions again."

As Bay had expected, the company had grown and this year included teams from both across the country as well as from England and Puerto Rico. The hours of practice and dedication that had been put in gave the team confidence, however the girls still had a few reasons to feel anxious.

"I think everyone was a little shaky on their performances. It wasn't the same as state, where we were all unanimously very happy with our performances," Jenna Wise (10) said. "I think it was a little different because there was more pressure because the team had been National Champions two years ago. The competition has grown too, and that was a little intimidating."

Despite added pressure, unfamiliar surroundings, including an usual floor and less time to warm up, or the team's uncertainty of their performance, the National judges were impressed. The team improved upon their previous title and made themselves International Champions.

"We were all excited [when we found out we won]. I was a little surprised after getting second in jazz at state. There were a lot of great jazz dancers because some of them that were competing were studio teams. I was really excited though," Wise said.

The National Competition was not the first time the girls had to be flexible and learn to work in unfamiliar surroundings, though.

"[The team] went through the transition of being presented with a new coach again, she co-coached with me, and they went through the transition of getting to know her. They over came that transition. They knew what they wanted, they had a goal as a group, and they just continuously worked towards that," Bay said. "They work well together. They learned each other's personalities and became one very well."

The competition was held in Orlando, Florida; a location that allowed the girls a few activities that involved more than just dance. While competing was their first priority, neither the girls nor the coaches seemed to have any complaints about being in Disney World.

"I definitely enjoyed being in the parks. I love Disney World; I think it's my favorite place in the world. We ate Mickey waffles too; they were splendid," Kelly Childs (12) said. "And we got to spend like 90 hours straight with the entire team, and that was really cool. We had a lot of silly bonding time."

For Bay, the highlight of the trip wasn't about riding Tower of Terror or meeting Mickey.

"I always enjoy getting to know the girls on a different level. It's not always instructional time like it is during rehearsals. I get a chance to talk to them and see them in a different light," Bay said. "It's nice to see them relax and enjoy each other's company. I enjoy my job, but I always enjoy the time that I get outside of school with them too."

"We appreciate that the school district allowed us to go. We work hard to make the school district proud because we represent Homestead, now on an international level. We appreciate the opportunity to go because we are lucky that we are able to experience that."

THE VARSITY

nataliewray'08

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 12
studio attending: Steppin' out studio of dance
goals: "To dance for a professional company in Chicago or New York or dance at a major university."
favorite moment: "Having the entire team sing 'Row, row, row your boat' before competing"

jennawise'08

years on varsity: 2
total years dancing: 13
studio attending: Tiffany & Co. Studio of Dance
goals: "Dance in New York, keep enjoying dance, continue to dance after, and go as far in dance as I possibly can."
favorite moment: "The feeling after state performances."

nil

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 13
studio attending: currently none, Tiffany & Co., L.A. Dance, and Premiere Dance in past
goals: "Maybe dance in college."
favorite moment: "After we
and singing 'Do your ears ha

alexkruse'06

years on varsity: 4
total years dancing: 15
studio attending: Tiffany & Co. Studio of Dance
goals: "I plan on dancing after graduation in college."
favorite moment: "Sophomore year nationals in Florida, when we won Grand National Champion."

gigiroot'06

years on varsity: 2
total years dancing: 15
studio attending: Premiere Dance Studio
goals: "To continue to dance through college at least at [Premiere] studio."
favorite moment: "Meeting Brian [Littrell] of BSB with Courtney [Nicholson]."

courtneynicholson'06

years on varsity: 3
total years dancing: 14
studio attending: no current studio, past L.A. Dance
goals: "Possibly trying out for Purdue's dance team."
favorite moment: "The feeling after dancing the jazz [routine] at state and meeting Brian Littrell from BSB with Gigi [Root]."

brittanyaraki'06

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 9
studio attending: Tiffany & Co. Studio of Dance, Premiere Dance Studio
goals: "I plan to be a therapist, but maybe specialize in therapy for dancers."
favorite moment: "The tower of terror at nationals and hanging out with Crawfordsville."

lindsaybaker'07

years on varsity: 2
total years dancing: 14
studio attending: no current studio, past Southwest Academy of Dance
goals: "Keep dancing throughout college at a studio."
favorite moment: "Beating Munster last year at the state championships and going to Disney World!"

holl

years on varsity: 2
total years dancing: 15
studio attending: Steppin' Out Studio of Dance
goals: "Dance in Chicago or New York professionally."
favorite moment: "Playing the ten finger gam
lose first!"

DANCE TEAM

kkijefferies'08

performed at State
ang low?' on the bus."

gabiacquaro'08

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 11
studio attending: Premiere Dance Studio
goals: "To keep dancing through college and one day coach or teach a dance team."
favorite moment: "Walking off the floor after performing [the] jazz [routine] at state 2006."

kelleystrothmann'08

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 9
studio attending: Steppin' out studio of dance
goals: "Finish up with the high school team and possibly dance at college."
favorite moment: "Coming off the floor after jazz at state, winning first at nationals in jazz, and beating Munster [high school]."

kellychilds'06

years on varsity: 3
total years dancing: 15
studio attending: Premiere Dance Studio
goals: "To continue to dance through college at least at [Premiere] studio."
favorite moment: "Meeting Brian [Littrell] of BSB with Courtney [Nicholson]."

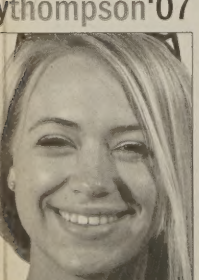
nishipatel'06

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 7
studio attending: none currently
goals: "To dance in college and [join] IU ballroom dancing club."
favorite moment: "Winning first at Nationals and going to Disney World and meeting Mickey Mouse!"

sarahfagan'07

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 13
studio attending: Tiffany & Co. Studio of Dance
goals: "I feel that by making it to varsity and giving my all to dance I've accomplished what I needed to do for myself.
favorite moment: "When we did our jazz dance at state we were all jumping up and down, crying."

ythompson'07



e and making Jenna

amandaoperschall'07

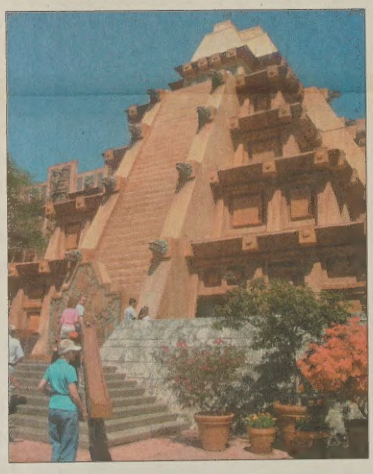
years on varsity: 2
total years dancing: 15
studio attending: Premiere Dance Studio
goals: "Extra-curricular dance in college, and possibly [join] a dance team."
favorite moment: "Watching my team perform their best jazz routine ever at state and the whole Florida trip. "

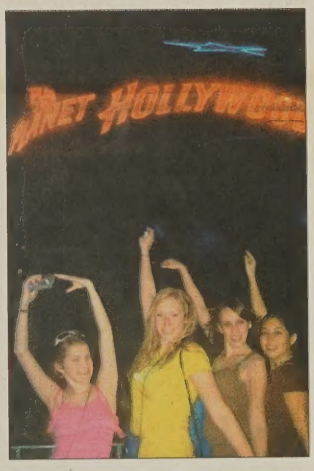
amandaclay'07

years on varsity: 1
total years dancing: 9
studio attending: L.A. Dance
goals: "Maybe join a dance team at whatever college I end up at."
favorite moment: "When we got off the floor after our jazz performance at state we were all so excited and everyone was screaming and jumping up and down."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

(NATIONALS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA)





PLACES AT INTERNATIONALS

1ST PLACE IN JAZZ
3RD PLACE IN LYRICAL
3RD PLACE IN LARGE ENSEMBLE
1ST PLACE IN SMALL ENSEMBLE (JENNA WISE , ALEX KRUSE, KELLY CHILDS)
2ND PLACE IN SMALL ENSEMBLE (HOLLY THOMPSON, NATALIE WRAY)

SOLOS (CLEAN SWEEP)

1ST: ALEX KRUSE
2ND: JENNA WISE
3RD: HOLLY THOMPSON
4TH: NATALIE WRAY
5TH: KELLEY STROTHMANN

A SPARTANA EXCLUSIVE: THE FACE OF AIDS - A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY PAGE 12

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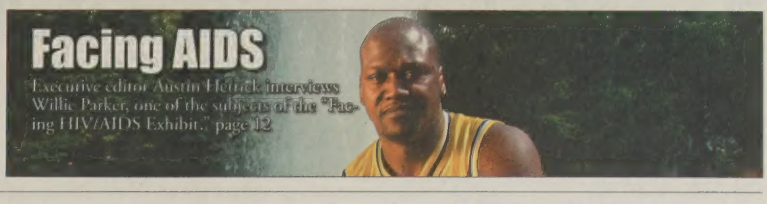
Facing AIDS
Executive editor Austin Hetrick interviews Willie Parker, one of the subjects of the "Facing HIV/AIDS Exhibit," page 12

"I'd like to have more time to spend with my family."
-Dianne Moake, principal

Moake requests transfer

Announces move at school board meeting, citing personal, professional reasons

PHOTOS ZACH HETRICK

By Austin Hetrick and Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editors

Citing personal and professional reasons, principal Dianne Moake has requested a transfer to another administrative position within the district. She will remain in her current position until her replacement is named. The district hopes to find a suitable candidate by July 1, when Moake's current contract expires.

Moake announced the decision during a faculty meeting on Tuesday, April 18, and presented her request for transfer to the school board later that evening. She began considering making a change just after Christmas.

"I'd like to have more time to spend with my family," Moake said, explaining her reasoning. "My mom's getting [older] but she lives up at Lake Wawasee and because of my responsibilities as principal it makes it difficult for me to get up there and see her and visit with my family on a regular basis. [Being] a new grandma, I want to not just be the grandma that's around only occasionally. I want to be able to do the special things with our new grandson."

Moake has been in education for 30 years, and has been at SACS for the last 16. She began her tenure in special education, became chairwoman of Homestead's special education department in 1994, accepted the vice principal's position several years later, and was approved by the school board as principal on July 7, 1999. Moake hopes taking another administrative position in the dis-

see Moake, on page 2

Above: Dianne Moake requested a transfer to another position at the Board on Tuesday April 19. Moake sited professional as well as personal reasons for her decision. She will step down when a replacement is found. Right: Assistant Principal Chris Johnson, Anita Gross, and Principal Dianne Moake share a laugh at Tuesday's board meeting. At the meeting Moake presented the board with her request for a transfer as well as handbook changes.

BRIEFS

SPRING MUSICAL

The spring musical "Cabaret" will open on May 5th, and performances will be held on the 6th, 12th, and 13th. The cast stars Trevor Alt (12), Tommy Lyday (12), Kristina Kartholl (12), Emma Farnsworth (11), and Jim Katz (12). Tickets are $7 in advance and $9 at the door.

Principal Jerry Schillinger presents his proposed changes to lunch in '06 - '07.

LUNCH, '06 - '07

At the April 18th school board meeting, members concluded that neither of two proposed changes to the lunch are feasible. Proposed was the addition of fourth lunch period and the reopening of the Freshman Academy cafeteria. The board concluded that freshmen will continue to eat in the Homestead cafeteria.

ORCHESTRA CONCERT

On Tuesday, April 18th the Homestead orchestra performed their annual spring concert in the auditorium. The concert began at 7 pm. The full orchestra played a majority of traditional classical pieces.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2, News: Jumped stories, econ challenge wins
PAGE 3, Opinions: Drug survey's provide shaky facts, no laughing matter
PAGE 4, Sports: Golf team begins new season at a new course
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PAGE 8, Life: Spring arts week prepares to get into gear
PAGE 9, Life: College visits help students, recommended by counselors
PAGE 10, Life: Food review: Ruby Tuesdays doesn't make the cut
PAGE 11, Life: Mission trips over spring break let students help others
PAGE 12, News: The faces of AIDS/HIV, photography from the exhibit

Tim Decker heads to New Orleans to rebuild

By Puja Parikh
Associate News Editor

As a lieutenant commander in the US Coast Guard, psychology teacher Tim Decker was sent to New Orleans to help the city rebuild in light of the recent hurricanes.

Decker is part of the Office of Contingency Planning and Force Readiness. This department assists with administrative details surrounding this year's hurricane plan and helps update the needed information for this plan. Decker has also been helping to figure out the Watch Quarter Station Bill and the 2006 Hurricane Billets. His job is to plug in names of people who have specific roles to fill in the event of a hurricane. In New Orleans, Decker will be working on A Maritime Security Plan for the Port of New Orleans.

"Right now, one of the biggest missions of the Coast Guard is the overseeing of salvage operations," Decker said. "There are numerous vessels that were displaced as a result of Hurricane Katrina and they are a potential navigation hazard. The Coast Guard is working with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) to try and establish which vessels pose the most significant hazards to navigation and remove them as quickly as possible."

Another major concern that the Coast Guard is dealing with is that of the new hurricane season, which beings May 1st this year. Normally, hurricane season starts on June 1st and continues until Nov. 30th. However, this year, the Gulf waters have stayed warmer than usual and as a result, there is the potential for hurricanes to form earlier than they have in the past.

"So far, I have helped out fellow Coast Guardsmen with getting their houses in order and plan on helping a couple of Saturdays in area neighborhoods clearing debris and gutting houses," Decker said.

see Decker, on page 2

IU revises its qualifications for admission

By Karolina Heyduk
Writer

Indiana University at Bloomington approved tougher admission standards, including an increase in science, math, and foreign language requirements that will take effect in 2011. The school hopes to raise the vigor of their undergraduates' high school course loads.

The changes, approved by IU's trustees on Friday April 7, will make admissions into the school more selective. Students will be required to have eight credits of English, seven credits of math with the addition of a required course in pre-calculus, six credits of social sciences instead of four, six credits of science instead of two, and four credits of foreign language.

Special consideration will be given to students with a GPA of a B or higher. In-state students who are in the top 40 percent of their class will be given preference, whereas old guidelines allowed for students to rest in the top 50 percent. The school will look for students from Indiana with SAT scores above the state average of 1012.

Larry Gonzalez, the associate director of IU undergraduate admissions, hopes that the new requirements will strengthen the academic back-

see IU, on page 2

As the summer slowly approaches, the school board is reviewing possible renovations for '06

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Four significant renovations have been proposed for this summer. The projects include expanding the existing tennis court lots, adding an additional parking lot where the maintenance building used to stand, adding a new landscaped entryway, and paving the existing academy parking lot, among several other minor improvements.

These renovations were brought before the school board last Tuesday, April 18. Money was brought up as an issue, and, though nothing was approved, the board expressed concern that all the projects might not be fiscally possible.

see Renovations, on page 2

MAJOR CHANGES

'BASE BID' PROJECTS (MOST LIKELY TO BE APPROVED)
- Ninth Grade Academy parking lot resurfacing
- Main entry drive and parking lot reconfiguration

ALTERNATE PROJECTS (POSSIBLY IMPLEMENTED THIS YEAR)
- Tennis court area parking lot improvement/expansion
- Technology center parking lot improvements
- Main entry feature

Third annual spring coffee house approaches

By Jim Katz
Writer

The annual NHS coffee house will be held on schedule this year in the commons at the front entrance of the school.

NHS, one of the school's many volunteering-based organizations hosts the event, its single largest fund raiser on Friday, April 28 from, 7 to 10 pm.

Funds raised from this event will go towards NHS's various programs, including induction ceremonies and many service projects throughout the year.

The coffeehouse will come at the end of spring arts weeks and not only exists to raise money for NHS, but also to promote and display the creativity and talent of the school's student body.

Planning for this event was no small task, and so board members and other volunteering members were split into various committees, ranging from advertising to finding bands to making and buying coffee, other drinks and food to be sold at reasonable prices.

Those who attend will be treated to performances from some of Homestead finest musical acts, including DoYaDig and Chris Miller, along with many others. While performers are not completely set yet, for more information, NHS's advisor is Stephen Clough.

The Nation Honor Society members agree that the spring coffeehouse is not to be missed.

MORE ON SPRING ARTS WEEK
Begins next week, Monday thru Friday
see page 8 for full story

Economics team wins 'econ challenge'

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

The Law of Marginal Return, Aggregate Demand, Tax Incidents, the Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility; while not things which one comes into contact with every day, these terms were used heavily in the 2006 Indiana Economics Challenge which was held on Tuesday April 11, 2006.

The competition is similar to a Quiz Bowl for economics students. Students are selected by economics instructors Sue. Summers and April Moss. Summers was in charge of the AP or "Adam Smith" division team while Moss headed the David Ricardo or regular economics team.

The competition consisted of four rounds, three of which were written tests. The first round dealt with Microeconomics, the second with Macroeconomics, and the third and final written round involved current events as well as economic theory. Homestead's AP-level team finished with an impressive score of 1145 on the written tests. The score was the highest in the state, beating Carmel by 65 points and their 4th round opponent St. Joseph by 215 points. There were three competition sites across the state with the two highest scores from the first three rounds at each site moving to the fourth and final buzzer-based lightning round.

"It (Econ Challenge) is an experience with answering AP level questions in a pressure situation," Summers said, "and gives students a chance to compare their knowledge with students across the state."

At Homestead's site for the Adam Smith division, Homestead and St. Joe moved to the lightning round. Homestead's team consisted of Javed Sayed (12), Evan Niner (12), Tom Grimes (12), and Chris Thompson (12). Controversy ensued when Homestead was denied an opportunity to answer one of the questions after St. Joseph's team gave an incorrect answer.

After the rounds' twenty questions were completed, the teams were died, but unfortunately Homestead lost on the tie-breaker question. Had the team won, they would have moved to the Midwest regional in Chicago.

At the David Ricardo level, Homestead also made it to the lightening round, this time against Culver Academy.

This time Homestead was dominant. Team members Hari Vasu (11), Danny Panyard (12), Paul Gilbert (12), and Abhi Vemula (12) answered the first eleven of their lightning-round questions correctly, leaving no need to read the final nine questions. The David Ricardo team will now move on to higher level competition in Chicago.

For winning, the David Ricardo division team received $50 in cash each. The Adam Smith division team each received $20 gift certificates to Barnes and Noble for their second-place finish. The team looks for their next meet in April.

IU, continued from page 1

ground of incoming freshmen.

"Indiana University Bloomington has adopted the following standards…to ensure that its undergraduate students are properly prepared for college course work," Gonzalez said.

The Indianapolis Star reported that every seventh freshman at the Bloomington campus had to take a remedial math course last semester.

The changes will place IU alongside higher ranked schools like Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame.

The new prerequisites for IU are more demanding than current requirements at either of those two schools.

Nishi Patel (12) describes herself as a good student who took mostly honors and AP classes. IU was the only school she applied to and said that it was relatively easy for her to get accepted. Although the changes in requirements don't affect her, Patel sees positive qualities about the new standards.

"It'll definitely make it harder to get in, [so IU is] not just a shoe-in school. It could be a good thing so people can't just be like, 'Oh I can just go to IU if I don't get good grades,'" Patel said.

Patel also points out that while the more rigorous requirements will attract the well-rounded student, others who look to study in a certain area could find the high number of credits in unrelated subjects and burdensome.

Nevertheless the elevated admission standards will raise IU into the higher echelon of public state universities.

Moake, continued from page 1

trict will give her more time, not just for her family, but also to pursue personal goals.

"…Several years ago I got admitted into the doctorate program down at Ball State. My goal was to get my doctorate or at least my educational specialist license, and have my husband give me my diploma because he's on the board of trustees at Ball State. And to do [the principal's job] the way I want to do it, hasn't allowed me to go back and take very many classes. So professionally I still want to pursue that."

Gloria Junk, secretary to the principal, said that Moake will leave behind a legacy.

"I think she has brought the staff together more," Junk said. "I think the students respect her more than past principals have been."

After she went public with her decision, some students began to reflect on her impact on the school and her performance of late.

"Well the school has remained amazingly "intact" if you will, given the huge amount of people and the organizing required, so a very responsible person definitely comes to mind," Nathan Haffner (11) said. "There is no principal like her. She doesn't act like she runs the place, and that's what I think everyone loves the most."

At the school board meeting, the board set in motion steps to begin a search for suitable candidates to replace Moake. As of Wednesday night, district human resources director Phyllis Davis had posted the position.

Once candidates apply they will be interviewed by a committee of parents, teachers and administrators, and if approved, by major district administrators.

"Of course, I would not leave Homestead without a principal, and you don't know when they will find the appropriate replacement for Homestead," Moake said.

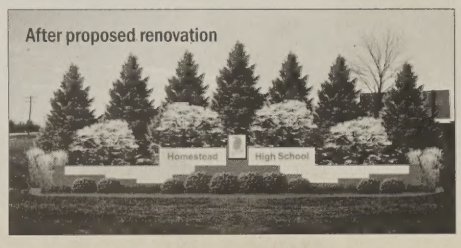
"By that time, hopefully there would be another position for me within the district. There are two pieces working here: finding a new principal and also seeing if there is a position that would be a good match for the district and for [me]."

Looking back on her years as principal, Moake can't help but tear up. She said she will miss most the daily interaction with students, being able to share with them their accomplishments and trials.

"I'm hoping I can find a position where I can still have a direct impact on kids and if it is not within my job, I will do it outside me job [through volunteering]."

When asked what she is most proud of after seven years as principal, Moake points to not only the physical changes (most notably the Ninth Grade Academy and many of the award cases, which she helped champion), but attitude changes as well.

"I worked hard to make Homestead a very student-focused place and I think that's what it should be about. I wanted students to walk away from their high school career and…later on say, 'You know, I had a good experience, I enjoyed the opportunities that I had.'"



PHOTOS AND DIAGRAMS COURTESY OF LANDPARK MANAGEMENT

Far left: The current main entrance to Homestead. Left: The proposed change would set up a matching set of hedges (flowering trees on a hill) and a single sign, designed to make the entrance to the campus more discernible. Bottom: Proposed changes to the senior lot. The change is designed to ease traffic flow and incorporate more parking. Below left: A diagram from above of the proposed entrance changes. Below: One of the additional upgrades being considered by the board: the change would add spots to the tennis court lot.

Renovations, continued from page 1

This summer, Homestead will be undergoing two major renovations. These projects include ninth grade academy parking lot resurfacing and main entry drive and parking lot reconfiguration.

The resurfacing of the freshmen academy lot has been long overdue and is needed badly, Kevin McCrory, a landscape architect, said.

The main entry reconfiguration includes paving the area where the old maintenance building used to be, adding 90 spaces to the front of the school. Who will use that lot has not been determined, but it will most likely be available to students, Principal Dianne Moake said.

The other projects have been suggested but have not been approved. They include the landscaped entryway, the expansion of the tennis court lots, and the expansion of the second faculty lot next to the academy.

The existing tennis court parking lot currently holds 107 vehicles. The gravel area just past the lot would be paved this summer and the lot would be expanded. In all, the project would add 58 new spaces, bringing the total to 165.

To improve the front of the school, Moake proposed large landscaped entry ways that would be put on either side of the road leading in to the campus. The entry ways would be complete with Homestead High School signs.

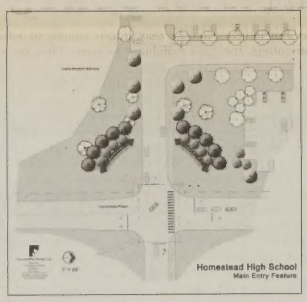
Other proposed minor projects include widening the road leading to the faculty parking lot to three lanes rather than one, fixing drainage problems leading out to the tennis court lots, adding several spaces to the existing faculty lot next to the academy, and putting in islands at the end of the senior parking lot rows to improve the look of the area and to help traffic flow.

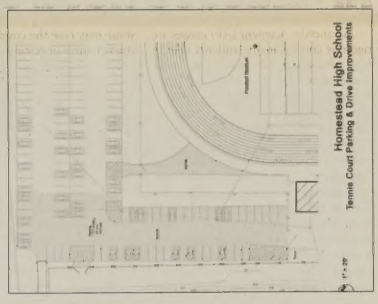
A final major renovation is that of the old Woodside sixth grade wing, which sits adjacent to the freshmen academy. It has been unoccupied this year.

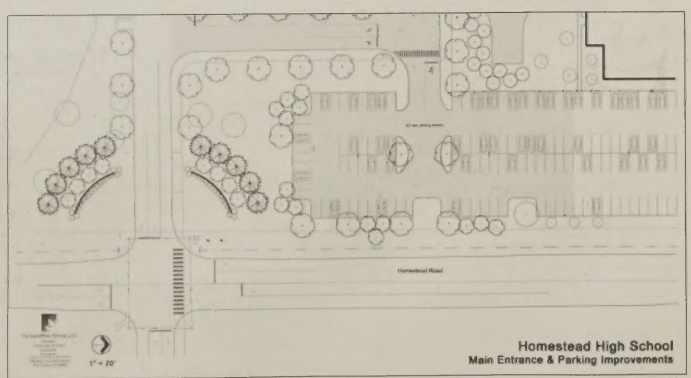
However, over the summer, that area is expected to be turned into housing for the CMT building, the IMPACT school, and Region Eight. This renovation has been in the works ever since the freshmen academy was first introduced, but the opportunity to renovate the space has not presented itself until now.

Moake proposed that because the campus will be increasing their parking lot space by as many as 150 spaces, the school allow anyone to drive to school as long as they meet state and school driving privilege requirements.

At the school board meeting, members also concluded that neither of two proposed changes to the lunch are feasible. Proposed was the addition of fourth lunch period and the reopening of the Freshman Academy cafeteria. The board concluded that freshmen will continue to eat in the Homestead cafeteria. Assistant principal Jerry Schillinger made the proposals to the board, his recommendation on arrival







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Decker, continued from page 1

When asked if conditions had improved since FEMA stepped into New Orleans, Decker replied, "Hard to say. There are FEMA trailers everywhere!! People are starting to come back, but it is slow because housing is a major issue. Help wanted signs are everywhere, but if people don't have a place to live, then they can't comeback. There is some tensions between the local government / Mayor Ray Nagin and FEMA."

Decker talked about 17th street canal, which was one of the levies that broke and allowed water from Lake Ponchatrain to flood New Orleans.

"You just can't believe the level of destruction until you see it. Then if you go East of New Orleans toward Slidell, Louisiana, the devastation is even worse. Mile after mile of nothing but utter destruction. There is an island where lots of nice houses sat on pilings 15-20 feet above the water - gone - almost every single house is gone. I have never seen destruction like this in my life.... There were a lot of lessons learned as a result of Katrina and the Coast Guard has implemented those lessons learned into its response plan."

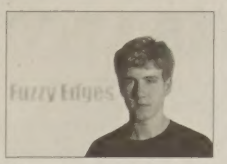
While recovery operations in New Orleans have been painstakingly slow, more improvement is evident everyday.

"Many of the normal operations that should have been accomplished have not been and that is where reservists, like me, can help by augmenting to these surge operations and providing a temporary workforce to fulfill the mission requirements of the Coast Guard."

Decker still has about a month left in New Orleans, and he will be more involved with the recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

"One of the things I am looking forward to, and hopefully this will happen, is a Coast Guard helicopter ride up and down the Mississippi and the area affected by the Hurricane."

Drug Survey is no laughing matter: school takes shaky results to heart



By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

"Facts are stubborn, but statistics are more pliable." -- Mark Twain

A month ago students sat down in their first period and were presented a "voluntary survey" by their teachers. For the next twenty minutes they scratched their heads about some questions, joked with friends about a few, and randomly circled still others. Some students drew lines down columns to finish it as quickly as possible. A few didn't even make the effort to mark the survey. Some told the truth.

"How many times a week do you use alcohol?"

"Have you ever tried meth?"

"How many times a week do you drink heavily?"

"In the last year how often have you used cocaine?"

I thought the funniest part of the drug survey was how much work it took to say "No, I've never used drugs!" Whomever designed this survey must have missed the concept that if you answered no to "Have you ever used cocaine" there's no reason to answer "How many times a week have you used cocaine?" No wonder a large number of positive numbers show up in these surveys.

Though many students joked around and laughed at some of the questions (how the heck does someone remember how many times on average they have drank alcohol in the past week?) this was no laughing matter.

From these statistics the district will determine the success or failure of a year's worth of drug testing, prevention lessons and hard work by the NAND organization. I support efforts to lower alcohol and drug use (within reason and with respect for students' rights,) but I've got a big problem with drawing conclusions from fuzzy data.

Earlier this year in my statistics class we learned about surveys. According to our book, a voluntary survey (one in which the surveyed has no real reason to tell the truth) is an ineffective way of measuring the truth. In other words, if the surveyed population has no reason to tell the truth, (and no reason to fill out the survey,) the chances of accurately representing the statistics you're trying to identify are reduced.

How many students actually filled out that survey? Now, of that proportion, how many filled it out honestly? There are two problems with this whole operation:

1. If some students don't fill out the survey then you haven't captured the true population's results.

2. If students are lying in the survey, your results are going to be skewed.

Despite its less-than-ideal characteristics, our school district and NAND will use these numbers as ammunition to prove the existence of a drug problem, and will even compare numbers between years and point to that as evidence of success or failure for their drug initiatives.

I understand fully the difficulty that NAND and the district face when it comes to demonstrating a drug problem in the district. There are so few ways to show it, drug tests are not always accurate, and because not everyone is tested it doesn't measure the full population. Drug surveys are one option But relying on shaky facts to make your case is not a better option: kids take this as a joke, and you're taking these numbers and making them absolute truths.

AP classes not a show for college

Advanced placement (AP) classes are rigorous courses many students take in high school in an attempt to get college credit. However, receiving college credit is contingent upon how well a student scores on a comprehensive exam administered by the College Board.

When universities decide who to admit they often times will look at the difficulty of classes taken by students. Students who take these AP classes then have an edge over their non-AP peers. While this is all good and well, the problem arises when students take advanced placement courses only to "build their resume." That is to say, students are not forced to take the subject tests, and so some may take the courses only to help their chances of getting into college. The editorial board feels that this is a decision based on false logic.

The board feels that the only way to ensure that students put forth their best effort in class is to require all who attend an AP class to take the advanced placement tests.

Rather than taking the test and showing whether or not they truly know the subject, these students take the easy way out. Many times they attempt to gain credit for taking a college level class, when in fact they know little about the subject.

Some may argue that the costs of taking AP tests, usually around 80 dollars, are prohibitive for some. However, this is not often the case as the state of Indiana pays for math and science exams. Additionally, many schools will help defer the costs of these exams for those who cannot afford to pay for them.

The editorial board firmly believes that AP classes should be reserved for students who intend to treat the classes as though they were actually in college. This means that students have the responsibility to try their hardest, and takes the College Board's tests in May. By not doing so they waste their time, and the time of their peers and teachers.

the Spartana Sudoku

6	8				2			4
					5			
5				1				2
	5		6			4		
	7		8		4		3	
		8			1		9	
8				4				6
			5					
4			3				8	5

Due to the increasing popularity of this game, the Spartana staff has decided to include a trial puzzle. Please tell us what you think by e-mailing us at 'thespartana@gmail.com.'

INSTRUCTIONS
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9.

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A riot of my own
Honestly, just answer the question

Jim Katz
writer

In the last year, President Bush has held many "open forums" where average Americans have a chance to openly confront the most powerful man in the world. Usually Bush is treated to a stem of thanks and praises, and all semblance of actual questioning is lost.

But, a few weeks ago, Harry Taylor, a 61-year-old real estate broker, came to one such "open forum" in Charlotte, North Carolina, and laid this stinging barrage:

"You never stop talking about freedom, and I appreciate that. But while I listen to you talk about freedom, I see you assert your right to tap my telephone, to arrest me and hold me without charges, to try to preclude me from breathing clean air and drinking clean water and eating safe food. If I were a woman, you'd like to restrict my opportunity to make a choice and decision about whether I can abort a pregnancy on my own behalf.

"...in my lifetime, I have never felt more ashamed of, nor more frightened by my leadership in Washington, including the presidency, by the Senate, and…I would hope...I feel like despite your rhetoric, that compassion and common sense have been left far behind during your administration, and I would hope from time to time that you have the humility and the grace to be ashamed of yourself inside yourself."

While it might seem that this would instill pride in those of use with a lack of faith in the current administration, it was Bush's comment in the middle that most discourages me:

"I'm not your favorite guy. Go ahead."

This lead to a great deal of laughter and applause from the audience, clearly made up of mostly Bush-supporters. Bush then went on to answer a question that Taylor never asked.

The problem is not however simply what Bush said, but the all-too-obvious technique that has become commonplace in Washington D.C. When someone is trying to force a politician into a spin-free zone, a little joke seems more than enough to brush off the veruncomfortable situation.

It reminds me of Jon Stewart's appearance on CNN's 'Crossfire' on Oct. 15, 2004. He was invited on with the idea of talking about his show, his new book, and, of course, making everyone laugh.

What he ended up doing was leveling both Tucker Carlson and Paul Begala, the show's hosts, on the theater they created, rather than creating a real debate show:

"No, no, no, no, that would be great. To do a debate would be great. But that's like saying pro wrestling is a show about athletic competition."

This, for me, is the underlying issue. We, in America, have turned politics into a technicolor light and sound show. Whoever can make the best first impression and avoid being tar and feathered by the media, will, in the end, win. No actual leadership seems to be judged. It seems that we have become scared of those who ultimately work for us.

The media and the nation have become so obsessed with entertainment, that we seem to have lost all interest in truth and actual information. We are afraid to confront those who are sending our boys to Iraq and sucking the federal budget drier with every passing year, yet we have no problem prying into every detail of Tom Cruise or Angelina Jolie's lives.

What we need is a media and a nation that doesn't, as Stewart put it:

"…look to Comedy Central for their cues on integrity."

I mean, I love the Daily Show as much as anybody, but come on:

"The show that leads into me is puppets making prank phone calls. What is wrong with you?"

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Sports

Finish strong

Steve Clark (12) and the boys track distance team dominate the competition. page 5

new course, new season

Above: Micheal Mercier (10) putts on the ninth hole during a Dekalb match. Mercier golfs in the third position.

Orchard Ridge Country Club is now the home course for the boys golf team

By Kylia Robrock
Writer

After making it to regionals last season, the boys golf team began practicing in mid-March for what they hope can be another very successful season.

The team will start this season without four of varsity players from last year. According to coaches and players, the underclassmen are prepared to take their games to the next level in order to join the talented team leaders to produce a successful season.

Erich Johnston (11) is the only junior on the team. He has been playing golf since he was seven years old. Johnston has played on the varsity team all three years, achieving many accomplishments.

Last year he to set the school records for the 9-hole and 18-hole.

"I practice everyday of the week, with a few days off once and a while," Johnston said.

Nate Wine (12) is a new addition to the team who transferred from Culver.

Wine began playing golf when he was four years old, and continues playing everyday. During the winter months, when it is too cold to play outside, he takes lessons at Sycamore Hills and practices at the dome.

"Being my first year at Homestead and being a senior, I feel my job is to help the underclassmen, like the studly Brock Rolhfing (9). Most of all I feel I need to shoot consistently low scores," Wine said.

"Nathan is a really good golfer who will make a huge contribution to our team this year," Johnston said.

Wine brings valuable experience to the team, as he and his Culver teammates competed at state his sophomore year. He hopes to return as a senior with his new team.

This year the team will be switching from the course at Chestnut Hills to Orchard Ridge. They will be the only team in the area to play at a country club. The change took place at the start of the season. With the new course and the strong camaraderie within the team, there are many hopes of doing really well this season. Above all, they are aiming to make it to state and compete for the championship. The guys also hope to go undefeated and capture a conference championship in the process.

"I think it's every teams goal to go to state at the beginning of the year. But it's not every team that really does have the opportunity," said Wine.

Top: Nate Wine (12) follows his ball during the Dekalb match. Above: Erich Johnston (11) confirms his score card with his opponents.

Girls track: 'High hopes for end of season'

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

The middle of a track season is very much like the middle of a run. Breath is coming regularly, legs still working, but the end is in sight. That's true for the Spartans as well: with maches continuing in the spring and early summer, the team hopes to finish as they started: strong.

As the girl's track and field team approaches the middle of their season, players and coaches have high hopes for the remainder of the regular season and into the post season. Despite some bad weather, the girls pulled through and won their most recent meet against Columbia City on Tuesday, April 11.

"The team did really well considering the strong headwind and everyone really put all their effort into the meet," Beth Niner (11) said.

Above: Katie Beutler (11) finishes a race agianst a Columbia city runner in a recent match. In the 100 meter dash, Beutler (11) finished second, followed by Katie Vieth (11) in third. Left: Meghan Terrell (09) sprints to the line for the finish of the 1600 meter run. Terrell placed first in the event. The next meet for the Spartanas will be against Carroll at home on April 25.

The girls received a score of 93 points, beating Columbia City's 39 points. The 3200M relay team consisting of Kristin Kinzer (9), Erin Blum (11), Kathryn Zachman (12), and Samantha Lee (12) placed 1st.

In the 100m dash, Kati Beutler (11) finished 2nd, followed by Katie Vieth (11) in 3rd. For the 1600m run, Meghan Terrell (9) placed 1st and Vasundhara Bhargava (10) placed 3rd.

The 400m relay team of Taylor Harruff (10), Beutler, Whitney Washington (9), and Veith finished 1st. For the 800m Run, Zachman placed 1st, followed by Terrell in 2nd, and Kinzer in 3rd. In the 200m dash, Kayla Kirk (10) placed 2nd, followed by Harruff in 3rd. The 3200m run was won by Lee and Emily Nestel (12) finished in 3rd.

The 1600m relay team of Anna Sotir (9), Amanda Kingsberry (11), Whitney Johnson (12), and Justine Jost (9) placed 1st. For the field events, Kinzer placed 1st in the high jump, followed by Elaine Gemple (12), Beutler finished 2nd in the long jump, and in the pole vault, Veith finished 1st with a height of 12'6, followed by Chelsea Sholl with a height of 9'6. For the shot put, Stephanie Mitchell (11) placed 1st with a distance of 34'8 and also placed 1st in the discus.

"So far this season we are looking really strong," Erin Quinn (10) said. "However, there are certain areas that are stronger than others. Kinzer and Terrell add depth as freshmen in the distance area.

Nestel, Lee, and Niner are solid every race they are in and are the type of kids coaches count on. Hannah Smith (11) and Kingsberry are valuable in the hurdles, along with Beutler and Harruff who win points in the 100 or 200 consistently. Mitchell always adds points in the shot put and discus each meet."

The next meet for the lady Spartans will be Tuesday, April 18th and it will be a duel match against Bellmont and East Noble. The girls have gained confidence after their latest victory and are practicing hard in hopes for yet another successful regular season and a long post season.

"This program is very intense and I feel that I have benefited a lot from the training," Terrell said. "I have high hopes for the end of the season."

STRONG START

Track team starts season strong, beginning with a two and one record

PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK

Steve Clark (12) lines up with runners from opposing schools at the starting line to begin a race during the Northside Relays on April 15th. He was the only Homestead runner in this particular race.

Ben Townsend (12) runs during a race at the Northside relays on April 15th.

By Sam Van Horn
Writer

As the outdoor season begins, the boys track and field team have dominated the competition winning two out of three of their meets to start the year.

"We have a really good team this season," Steve Clark (12) said. "I think we have the ability to win most of our competitions."

On March 28th, the Spartans traveled to Huntington North to compete in their first outdoor event of the season. They faced both Huntington North and South Side and were able to handle their competition with ease. Hunter Hall (11) cleared 14 feet for the Spartans as he took first place in the pole vault, and Shane Ruckel (10) and David Blake (11) finished second and third. Houlihan narrowly defeated his opponents in the long jump, with a leap of 19'8, just two inches farther than Simon from Huntington North. Two inches was also the margin of victory for Jacob Weide (10) in the high jump. His final marking was 6'0 and the runner-up finished with a jump of 5'10. The Spartans took first place at the meet with Huntington North and South Side finishing second and third.

Their second meet was April 12th at Columbia City. With only one opponent at this meet, the Spartans were victorious with a comfortable winning margin. Andrew Alvarez (10) won the hurdles event with a time of 16 seconds flat. Weide again won the high jump contest with the exact same marking, 6'0. Kyle Knezovich (11) finished second in the long jump with a leap of more than 18 feet. Taking home first place finishes were Ben Townsend (12), Heckber, Andrew Schroeder (11), and Mike Townsend (10). With this victory the Spartans have now won both of their outdoor meets of the season.

North Side was the site in which the Spartans faced 17 other schools and finished in the bottom half in competition. They only placed first in one event at the meet, and that was done by Hall. He finished the best in the poll vault with a marking of 15'6". The Spartans also placed second in the same event when David Blake (11) had a marking of 12'6". Weide and Knezovich were the only other people in the field events for the Spartans to place. They finished tied sixth in the high jump with a leap of 5'10". Alvarez placed sixth in the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.8 seconds. The team finished 12th in a very tough field at North Side.

"We didn't perform that well as a team," Blake said. "We've been doing well so far this season so we know we can do better."

The Spartans have performed well winning the last two out of three meets they've competed in. And if they continue the pace they're on, they could have another strong season in the making.

Hunter Hall (11) takes form mid-air to pass over the bar during the pole vault competition at the Northside relays.

Softball begins season with six and two record

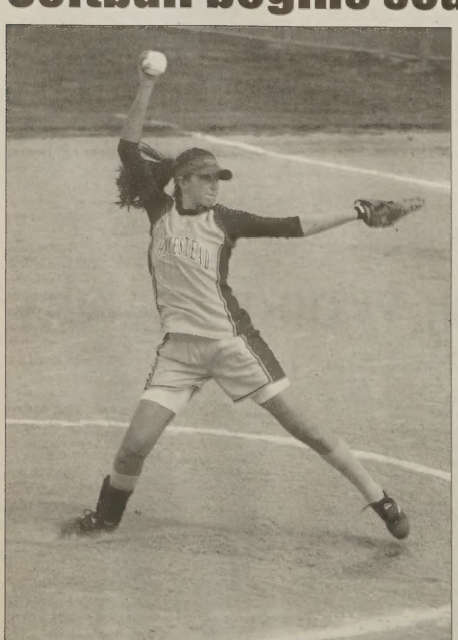


PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Beth McCullough (12) pitches to an opposing team member during a game.

By Luke Chase
Writer

With a loss of key seniors from last year, Homestead's softball team has had a tough season to make it through but has done exceptionally well thus far.

With a record of 6-1 the team played Huntington North on Wednesday, April 17. Despite putting up a good fight the team lost 2-1 putting the current record at 6-2, the teams only other loss this far has been to Blackford on April 15 with an 11-5 loss.

This year started out slowly with the teams first game, against Heritage, canceled but the team soon took off, winning the next game against Concordia 9-1.

"We've got a lot of freshmen on the team... I think they've come together pretty well," Coach Tom Clagg said. The game scores prove this, the team has shut out both South Side and Northrop.

The team lost eight seniors from last year and the team has "rebuilt quickly" and is leaning on this year's senior players, Clagg said.

Catcher Eden Lamb (12) has hit two home runs this season and the team's pitcher Beth McCullough (12) is the backbone of the team. Both players had a good measure of playing time last year as juniors and have experience.

"People think that we're going to be week this year because we've lost a whole bunch of seniors, but we have a whole bunch of seniors and we are going to be just as strong," third baseman Chelsea Vickerman (12) said.

The team has played eight of their 28 game regular season and is preparing to go into conference playoffs.

"We're anticipating giving everybody a good fight," Clagg said. Compared to the other competitors in our area, Homestead's team stacks up pretty well according to Clagg. He anticipates Columbia City, DeKalb and Belmont being difficult teams to beat. The conference in which these Homestead Girls play is the strongest in this part of the state.

"We don't have too many turkeys, especially in conference," Clagg said.

Last year the team ended second in conference and Vickerman would like to see the team take it this time.

"We really want to win our conference and get out of our local sectionals," Vickerman said.

Last years team ended in second for their conference. The team has lost some of its luster with the graduation of eight seniors but has gained ambition and determination to show people that just because some seniors were lost doesn't mean that this year cant be great.

People think that we're going to be weak this year because we've lost a whole bunch of seniors, but we have a whole bunch of seniors and we are going to be just as strong.

Chelsea Vickerman (12)
Varsity softball player

THE SEASON, SO FAR

Concordia	9-1	win
Leo	6-1	win
South Side	20-0	win
Dwenger	6-2	win
Luers	5-4	win
Blackford	11-5	loss
Northrop	8-0	win
Huntington North	2-1	loss

With few seniors, young ball players step to the plate

By Tim Clark
Writer

If there were any doubt about how the varsity baseball team would perform this year after losing many of its seniors; it has certainly vanished. Just by looking at the box scores the Spartans have seemed to completely dominate their opposition recording double-digit run totals during all six of their wins this season.

Despite their dominating performances, this team isn't heavy on senior leadership. Only four seniors show up on this year's roster while several juniors and a few sophomores round out the group.

Coach Keith Potter, however, is quick to point out that the Spartans haven't faced too many threatening teams yet this season. After playing relatively easy teams, the Spartans handily defeated the Concordia Cadets 12-3 to improve their record to 6-0.

This past Tuesday, however, the Spartans ran into a wall with the Blackhawk Christian Braves. The Braves are known to be a 1A powerhouse. The Spartans found a 1-0 lead late in the game before the Braves rallied to put two runs on the board.

Despite a clutch two-out hit in the final inning by Jimmy Kawiecki (12), the Spartans were unable to tie the game and lost their first game of the season 2-1. Despite the loss, the team is ready to get into the heart of their schedule in the coming weeks.

"The first solid team that we've played was Concordia," said Potter. "The other teams were teams that weren't as strong. We've been performing very well and the competition has been, for the first five games, not really strong but Concordia is a really strong team."

Homestead's biggest problem last year might have become a bit of a mental one after winning their first twelve games to start the season. After that the team went into a tailspin after being ranked as high as fourth in the state. The team, however, did finish strong winning the sectional championship against rival Snider. Potter is more leery this year, however, about looking too far ahead in their schedule and not concentrating on games right in front of them.

"You just worry about the next (game)," Potter said. "If you start thinking about five games ahead you're going to get beat in the next one."

Despite their dominating ways the Spartans have yet to really get down to business and concentrate and banging out those hard fought wins or those close calls because the team has jumped out early every time and never looked back.

"So far we've had good pitching, we've hit the ball really well, and we've played good defense," Potter said. "About the only thing we haven't done, mainly because we haven't had to, is stealing bases and things like that because we've had such big leads that is wasn't necessary."

Among the things that weren't expected right away from this year, Potter believed the hitting would be there all along. He was right. His team has scored more than eleven runs in six of seven games this season.

"I knew we were going to hit the ball," Potter said when asked if the strong offense surprised him. "You can't expect to score over ten runs a game but we've got so many guys who are just good hitters. We're going to score runs throughout the season. I can't guarantee ten a game, but we're going to score."

The players are quick to note, however, that despite their youth compared to other team, that the 'gel' factor has really come into play and that this group of players has built up a solid camaraderie amongst themselves.

"Our team is just coming together," Ryan Cicero (11) said. "We've got a lot of juniors this year. There are only four seniors so we've kind of been playing together for a while. Everyone is meshing pretty well. We brought up three or four sophomores during spring break and they all just meshed really well and we put up a lot of runs."

Potter added to Cicero's words saying he expected this team would do well, but he didn't exactly know how well before the season began.

"I knew we were going to be good but I didn't think we would be as far advanced as we are this early in the season because there are so many guys who did not play varsity last year who are now playing varsity this year for the first time," Potter said. They've stepped right up and continued playing just like they did last year on last year's undefeated JV team. That's probably the biggest surprise that they adjusted to varsity baseball as quickly as they have."

After suffering the loss to Blackhawk Christian Spartan's catcher Jimmy Kawiecki was quick to point out that one loss wasn't going to hurt his teams chances this year. Keeping focused is the players' main goal and has been since the beginning of the season.

"The way our defense is playing this year, there is no way opponents are going to put many runs on the board," Jimmy Kawiecki said. "Our pitching has been great. What we need to work on is getting used to better and faster pitching especially since conference is coming up."

Although the season is just beginning, Potter has high hopes after his team's hot start in April. The squad agrees that keeping their record will be difficult, but they are optimistic coming into the middle of the season.

"We'd just like to keep it going," Potter said. "We're playing really well now. We just have to not let up and expect to keep it going just by accident because we're going to be getting into our conference schedule. You start looking at the conference teams and just about every conference team has player really well."

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Right down the line

Girls tennis works to improve technique in early season

NUMBERS

Record: 5-0
Seniors: 4
Number one Singles: Amy Recht

SCHEDULE

April 22 - Carmel Invitational, away

April 25 - East Noble, away

April 27 - Columbia City, home

April 29 - Concordia Invitational, away

May 1 - Warsaw, home

May 2 - Bellmont, away

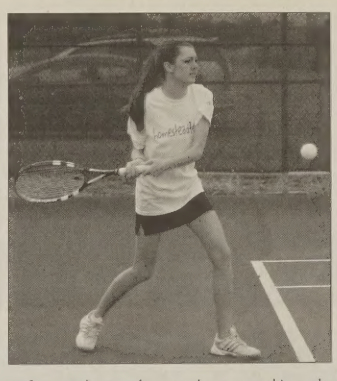
May 4 - Dekalb, home

May 9 - Carroll, home

By Laura Summers
Writer

According to players, the girls tennis team is off to a great start, impressively defeating Snider 5-0 in its opening match at home on April 11th.

The five different varsity groups consist of numbers one, two, and three singles and numbers one and two doubles. Each group defeated its opponent from Snider, ending the night with a score of 5-0.



The number one singles player was Amy Recht (11), a member of the varsity team since her freshman year. The number two player was Jade Johnson (9), and the number three player was Abby Machmut (10).

The number one doubles team consisted of Erin Wright (12) and Melissa Martin (12); the number two team was made up of Christine Antrobus (12) and Caitlin Myers (12). This roster changes from match to match.

At this match against Snider, the entire team played strong. Recht won her match by taking the first two sets 6-2, 6-0, respectively.

"I feel like I played pretty well. There's always room for improvement and I'm hoping to get better every match, but this was a great way to start my season," Recht said.

Recht was also pleased with the team's performance as a whole. "We all work really well together at practice and I think it shows at the matches. I think we're great as a team when it comes to unity and support for each other," Recht said.

On April 13th, the team faced Concordia in an away match. The results of this match were much like the one against Snider. Each match ended in victory for the Lady Spartans.

With matches almost every Tuesday and Thursday, the team faced New Haven on April 18th and Bishop Luers on April 20th.

The team, like any other, hopes to improve its record with every additional match. "We all want to do our best, individually and as a team," Recht said. "We want to make it as far as we can, preferably to the state tournament."

Jim Shull has been the girls' tennis coach for several years. With his creative net invention, he has helped the girls improve their game tremendously.

"Coach Shull has been a big help to all of us. He's a really nice guy and he wants us all to do really well. At practice, he pretty much lets us do our own thing unless we need specific help with something," Recht said.

Every player has her own unique technique when it comes to playing tennis. With all the different strategies the girls have, they go out and simply play their game and do their best.

"The biggest thing is adjusting to our opponents. Every player is different so we have to have variations of our own game," Recht said.

Upcoming matches include the Carmel Invitational taking place tomorrow, an away match against East Noble on the 25th, and a home match against Columbia City on the 27th.

Top: Jade Johnson (9) and Abby Machmut (10) wait with the rest of the team to shake hands with Snider opponents. **Insert:** Amy Recht (11) prepares to return a ball with a backhand during warm up.

Cubs contenders if Prior, Wood healthy

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Yes, I realize it is still early…very early. I realize that we are a mere 15 games or so into a 162 game season, but I am willing to make a very bold statement already: the Cubs can win it all this year. Then again, I said the same thing last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. But it feels different this year. The Cubs have assembled a team that is capable of completing the improbable: the third broken "curse" in as many years. The Red Sox did it in '04, the White Sox in '05, so why not the Cubbies this season?

Well, for one they are a bunch of whiners. I (the fan that I am) can admit that is what they are. They blame their failure on everyone but their own play. They blamed Steve Stone two years ago. They blamed Sammy Sosa last year. They blame the media. They blame the billy goat. But they never look at themselves.

That said, if this team, this year, can get past the blame-game, they could succeed. Derek Lee has picked up right where he left off last year, terrifying opposing pitchers with his home-run ability. Juan Pierre has emerged as a great lead-off man, something the Cubs have lacked for years. With great speed, a solid .288 OBP, and four stolen bases, Pierre has added a spark to a Cubs running game that was pathetic at times last year.

Even the young guys, most notably Ronny Cedeno and Matt Murton, have stepped up huge, hitting .365 and .295, respectively. Murton's OBP is also a staggering .367. And though these numbers are bound to go down eventually, these two players should continue to help this strong Cubs lineup tremendously, helping them to make their run towards the end of the season even more plausible.

And then, of course, there is Derek Lee. A home-run threat every time he comes to the plate, he is the catalyst for the Cubs lineup. If there is anyone the Cubs can count on to perform throughout the season, it's Lee.

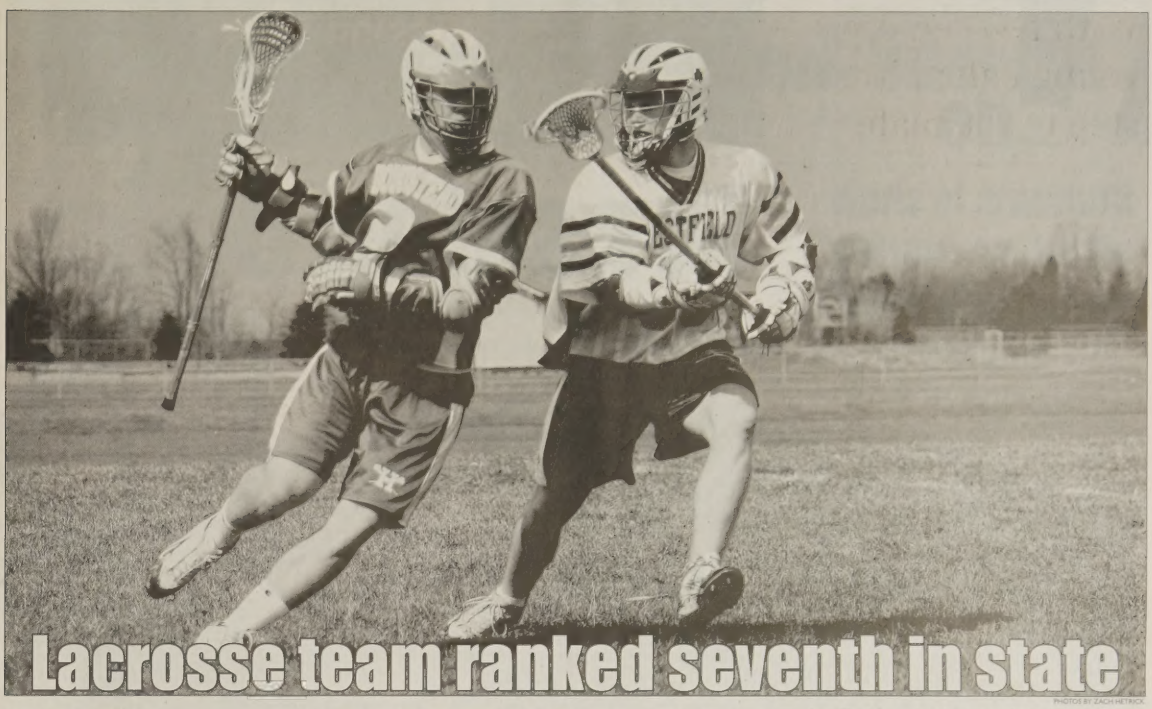
The offense will be there this season. That is not the question mark this year for the Cubs. It's the pitching that is worrisome. Right now, both Kerry Wood and Mark Prior are working to get back in the Cubs rotation by May. If they can put up the numbers they are capable of, watch out. Greg Maddux is 29 years old again. The 40-year old pitcher is 3-0 for the first time since 1994. Maddux comes off a 13-15 season last year, his first losing season since 1987.

Carlos Zambrano, although he has struggled at times this year, is the ace of this staff right now. He has electric stuff and he soon will find his form and will be dominant. If Wood and Prior and be successful, the starting rotation will be dynamite. Wade Miller is also injured and will get back in the starting lineup.

It is difficult to tell how much he will be able to contribute, but he should be a good fifth starter. Glendon Rusch and Sean Marshall are nothing special, but they are satisfactory starting pitchers if Miller is out for an extended period.

The Cubs bullpen has performed surprisingly well also. Ryan Dempster, Scott Eyre, and Bob Howry have all appeared in at least four games this season and all have ERA's at 1.59 or less. In fact, Dempster and Eyre have not given up a run in twelve combined appearances.

All of these things bode very well for the Northsiders. But as it has the last few years, it all rests with Prior and Wood. If they can stay healthy once they get back in the rotation, they could carry this team all they way to October. That is a big "if," however. I don't care how many curses have been broken the past two years, the Cubs still have a lot to prove.



Lacrosse team ranked seventh in state

PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK

Colin Knapp (12), a defense man and captain on the lacrosse team, fights to keep possession of the ball at the start of an away game against Westfield. The Spartans lost the game with a high score of 13-9.

Players, coaches hope to finish year with state title, positive recognition throughout the region

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The boys lacrosse team has continued its strong start to their second year in existence and has gained some valuable experience against some of the top teams in state.

They opened up their season in South Bend on March 18 against LaPorte. The team came out strong on their way to an 11-1 victory. Tyler Freeland (12) led the Spartans with three goals and two assists. Matt Mickulecky (12) added three goals and one assist, and Kirk Brown (11) had two goals and two assists.

Next, the Spartans played Washington. Washington is one of the better teams in the state and would be a tough early season test for the team. The guys came out hard and fought their way to a 14-8 victory over the Yellow Jackets. Brown had five goals and two assists, Freeland had four goals and three assists, and Mickulecky had two goals and one assist. This early season match showed the team that they could play with anyone in the state.

The Spartans next game was against top ranked Heritage Christian on March 24th. Freeland had three goals and Brown provided two, in an intense 8-7 overtime loss. The team continued their weekend with a game against Westfield. It was a high scoring match, with the Spartans losing 13-9. Freeland had four goals and one assist and Brown had three goals and two assists, however the team did not pull off a win.

The team had one more game before spring break, against Pike. In a low scoring game, the Spartans were able to prevail, 6-5. Freeland once again led the way with two goals, and Mickulecky also added two goals. Joey Emmons (11) played strong in the goal with 12 saves to preserve the win.

Most recently, the team split a doubleheader at home, beating Guerin 16-1, and losing to state power Brebeuf Jesuit 9-4. This weekend the team will be facing off against St. Joe's of South Bend and Lafayette. Both teams will test the team's resilience as they look towards a postseason playoff berth.

Already, the team has had a fairly successful season. In only their second season in existence, they have proved that they can play with some of the best teams in the state. The team is currently ranked seventh in the state, and they are hoping to make the state tournament at the end of the season. Making a run in the tournament this year would be a big help in spreading the game to more of the area and would make the team even hungrier for next season.

Individuals on the team have also stepped up and have made a name for themselves around the state. Currently, Freeland is tied for first in points in the state. He has 16 goals and six assists. Brown ranks fifth in state, with 12 goals and six assists.

The team is hoping to continue their recent success and be competitive in the state tournament and even push for a state title.

"All I've got to say, is that we're going to duke them," mid-player Steve Whistler (12) said.

Ryan Ludera speaks to the players during the Westfield game. This is Ludera's first season as coach.

LACROSSE TEAM RECORD

LaPorte	W	Pike	W
Washington	W	Guerin	W
Heritage Christian	L	Brebeuf Jesuit	L
Westfield	L		

Player Spotlight

Tyler Freeland

Tyler Freeland (12) cradles the lacrosse ball in a game.

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

One of the most important and skilled players on the Homestead boys lacrosse team is Tyler Freeland (12). Here is an interview with Tyler about the team and his personal lacrosse plans.

Spartana: What got you into playing lacrosse?

Tyler Freeland: Getting into lacrosse, I went to a camp in Virginia where there was a boarding school that my parents were thinking about sending me. So they sent me out there and I knew they played lacrosse there so I bought a stick and I played there. I learned really quick and they asked me if I wanted to play there and they were surprised that was my first time playing. I decided to come back and play at Homestead. At the time I still went to Canterbury and I knew one other kid who played lacrosse so we started playing around.

How long have you been playing?

This is my fourth year playing, I started when I was a freshman.

How did you decide to start a lacrosse team last year?

Well Chase Meeks, Neil Bansal, and Ben Deschner all played for Bishop Luers and just one day in the van on the way to a game, we just decided that we wanted to start our own team and try to spread the sport to Fort Wayne. Canterbury [students] are also allowed to be on our team too. In our league, you can have kids from up to three schools.

Do you plan on playing lacrosse in the future?

Yes, I plan on attending Indiana University and play club lacrosse.

How do you hope the team will perform this year? Do you have any specific goals?

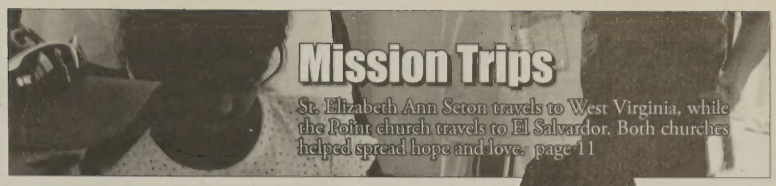
I have a lot of goals and expectations this year. We have a really good team. The top 12 teams in that state make playoffs, kind of like an NCAA tournament. So hopefully we can get into the top 12. Hopefully we can make a run at state.

When are your practices and what do you do there?

Practice is 3:45 to 5:45 [every afternoon.] Practice entails running, warming up, stretching, getting into stick skills like passing, catching, and throwing. Then we go into drills and sometimes we scrimmage depending on what day it is.

PHOTOS BY ZACH HETRICK

Top: Freeland runs from an opponent in order to get an open shot at the goal. Above: As team captain, Freeland leads by example by listening to the coach in a huddle at a game.



Mission Trips

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton travels to West Virginia, while the Point church travels to El Salvador. Both churches helped spread hope and love. page 11

Students to show off talents during spring arts week

By Katherine DeRosa
Writer

The fine arts department offers a wide array of courses for students. These courses are electives that students can take throughout their high school career. They include classes in art, dance, show choir, and band. Some of the these students' work will be showcased during fine arts week, Tuesday April 25th through the 29th.

Fine arts week was developed six years ago so participants in specialized areas of art could demonstrate their talents for the student body. A convocation will take place on April 25th when the student body will come and see performances by both show choirs, the orchestra, jazz band, winter guard, and the JV and varsity dance teams. The Elite and Class Royale show choirs will both be performing three songs this year, so the students can see what they have been working on all year. Elite will be performing the last three numbers of their competition show, which includes a Janet Jackson medley.

"Performing is my favorite part of show choir and I'm so excited that the entire student body will get to see our show," Kate Taylor, a member of Elite, (10) said.

Many other students in the choirs share Kate's excitement for performing.

"I can't wait to perform in front of the student body," Alexa Grimes (10) said. "Now everyone will appreciate all of the hard work we put in all year."

Grimes, a member of Class Royale, is excited to show her friends a segment from the show choir's competition show this year.

Class Royale will only be performing the last three songs of their competition show, which includes six. The all girls Elite Show Choir will also perform the last three numbers in their competition show.

"I think these last three songs, Big Time, Zoot Suit Riot, and Throw that Girl Around will be an entertaining and fun show for the students to see," said director Dr. Keith Touchton.

These songs are up-tempo and of the swing style. As its name suggests the final number, Throw that Girl Around, will be filled with stunts where the boys literally "throws the girl around." The show should prove to be entertaining for all members of the audience.

"I'm excited to perform in front of the school so my friends can see the show Class Royale put together this year. Because they were not able to attend any competitions this in school performance gives them an opportunity to see what the choir has been doing all year," said Justin Behrendsen (9). "As a freshman I am excited to see what Fine Art's Week is all about."

The JV and varsity dance teams will be performing their competition show they competed with recently at Nationals in Orlando, Florida. The winter guard will also be performing their routine.

The orchestra and jazz band will also be performing at fine art's week.

"Fine arts week gives the orchestra and other musical groups a prime opportunity to show the student body their talent and hard work," said Jacob Schmidt (10).

Jazz band will also be performing a variety of songs they have been practicing throughout the year.

"I hope fine arts week encourages students to appreciate art and music more than they already do," said Tommy Lyday (12). Lyday will also be performing on Friday April 29th in the commons. Other performers include Jon Swain (11), Ian McCormick (12), Brian Marks (11), Jim Katz (12), and Zak Labes (12). These students will be performing from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on Friday. A coffee house, hosted by the National Honor Society, will be catered by a local coffee house. This coffee house will run in conjunction with the Art Gallery, so as students drink coffee and listen to music, they can also take a look at students' art work.

Fine arts week also gives students with exemplary artwork a chance to display their artwork in the community room. Artwork will be displayed Tuesday through Friday, 7:15-3:15 and from 6:00-8:30 pm on Friday in the community room. This art will be submitted from various students and teachers, with much of it available for sale. All proceeds from the sale of their work will go directly to the artists.

Aaron Kunkle's (10) award-winning self portrait will be displayed. He is excited about art being featured for a whole week. "Fine arts week gives students who wouldn't normally pay attention to art, an excuse to come and see other student's talents," said Kunkle.

Paintings, sketches, photographs, and pottery are just a few examples of the different types of art you will find at the art show. T.J. Samuels (12) will be displaying his ceramic teapots throughout the week. "I love creating teapots because ceramics along with drinking tea is a very old practice. Through art I can modernize that idea and tie old and new together," said Samuels.

Fine arts week will also kick off the spring musical Cabaret, which will take place on May 6th and 7th, and May 13th and 14th. Students who participate in the arts are given this opportunity to show their talent and hard work to the entire student body. Fine Arts Week will showcase the talents of the show choirs, dance teams, jazz band, orchestra, and artists.

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Dressing down (Literally)

With spring here, despite rules, females shed clothing

By David Greco
Writer

Tank tops, tube tops, and spaghetti straps; all signs of spring in current fashion trends. Besides being related to the season, these clothes are all banned by the school dress code. Clearly worn by many students throughout the school, the enforcing of this rule seems very lenient.

"I see the dress code being broken all the time during the spring," Liz Cervantes (10) said. "In general, the dress code is not being enforced as well as it should be."

Many students decide to wear clothing that relates to the particular season, such as short skirts and tank tops, despite the rules placed down by the school. Styles that follow celebrities, seem to find their way into schools. These fads likely break school rules that state which clothes are allowed and which are not.

"It is our goal that Homestead High School be a safe, positive environment for students," the Parent/Student Handbook states. "…Accessories that may be detrimental to the learning environment… [are] not permitted."

Although guys' clothing can have the same problems, the issues that surround the dress code usually pertain to girls.

"Girls tend to break the dress code more often than guys because they try to wear what's in style," Amy Young (10) said.

Not only noticeable by other students, teachers see the dress code being broken as well.

"Every day I see clothes that break the dress code," Spanish teacher Toiyonna Arias said. "Usually I tell the students, whether guys or girls, to adjust their clothing or I notify the office."

Even though several teachers do enforce the dress code, it sometimes becomes apparent that students breaking the rules get by untouched.

"It seems that the people who break the dress code are not even spoken to by teachers," Nick Myers (10) said.

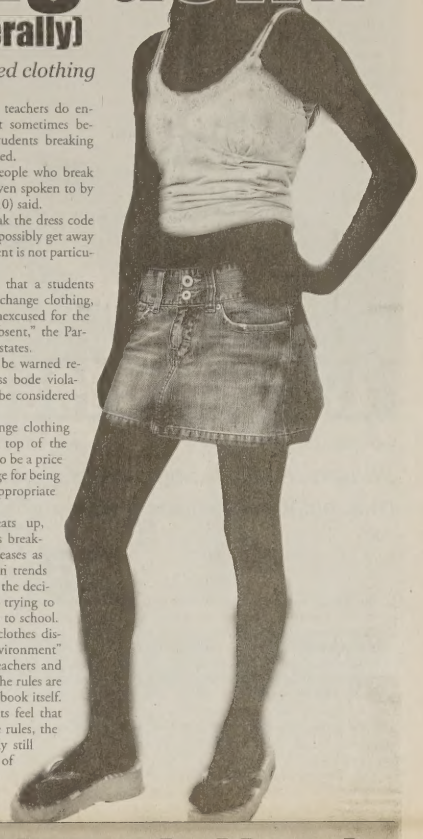
Many students break the dress code because they either will possibly get away or because the punishment is not particularly severe.

"If it is determined that a students must be sent home to change clothing, that students will be unexcused for the time period he/she is absent," the Parent/Student Handbook states.

"If a student has to be warned repeatedly about the dress bode violations, that student will be considered willfully disobedient."

Being forced to change clothing or wear something on top of the banned clothing seems to be a price worth paying in exchange for being able to wear their "inappropriate attire."

As the weather heats up, the number of students breaking the dress code increases as well. Styles and fashion trends have great influence on the decisions of many students trying to determine what to wear to school. Whether or not these clothes disrupt the "learning environment" is determined by the teachers and these student breaking the rules are forewarned by the handbook itself. Yet, since many students feel that it is worth breaking the rules, the dress code will probably still be ignored for the rest of the spring and summer.



Students get much-needed break

Beaches, cruises, out of county trips most popular destinations

By Katie Corson
Associate Life Editor

The countdown of days left until Spring Break started weeks ago, and for many Homestead students, watching the number of days decrease was one of few motivators for getting out of bed on cold weekday mornings.

After making frequent trips to the tanning bed, working out, and packing, students could not wait for break to start. Condos and beach front hotels have long been common Spring Break locations. Over the past few years, a new destination has also been steadily growing in popularity; a cruise ship.

"I went on a Royal Caribbean cruise with nine other seniors, eight girls and one boy, and their families. Our ship was called the Explorer of the Seas. We laid out in the sun and ate a lot. That was pretty much my week," Katie Lopolito (12) said with a laugh.

Although Lopolito and her friend didn't often stray from their deck chairs, the few times they did they discovered the ship and islands had lots to offer.

"I learned how to salsa, and we played dodge ball and volleyball a couple times," Lopolito said. "In Saint Maarten, I went on a sailing excursion. We sailed one of the yachts that is raced in the America's Cup Yacht race. That was really cool."

Lopolito and her friends certainly weren't the only students enjoying the luxuries of a Royal Caribbean cruise; Marita Rondot, along with three friends, spent the week on board the Navigator of the Seas.

"I liked Cozumel the best. I was really beautiful; the beach we went to was really nice and there were a lot of things to do," Rondot (12) said. "That was also my birthday, so that was really cool. We went shopping and to the beach, it was also one of the formal nights on the ship and the waiter brought me a birthday cake. Then we just went out and partied that night. I was a good birthday."

With cruise ships traveling to multiple island destinations within the week, students were able to experiences a myriad of cultures and places. Ship excursions also allowed cruisers to try new things that they otherwise may not have done.

"I went snorkeling for the first time in Grand Cayman. The water was so clear and blue," Rondot said. "Sarah and I really go into it. We saw a ship wreck, and we were close enough to touch the reef. All the fish were swimming in and out of the rocks so we could see them really well. They were so different; it was really cool."

Despite the growing popularity of cruising, the majority of students agree that any Spring Break destination will suffice so long as it provides a beach, cool people, and good food.

"I went to Destin, Florida, with Augi Dickson's family for the week," Mitch Haifley (12) said. "We stayed in the village area, so everything was within walking distance. We could get to restaurants and the beach, there were also night clubs and live music [in the village] every night."

Even though Mitch and his friends were able to get almost anywhere on foot, they still found having access to a car very convenient; and apparently not just any car.

"We stayed with Augi's grandparents house. His grandfather is a pretty wealthy man and he has a couple of nice cars in the garage," Haifley said. "So we had a good time cruisin' around and looking for girls."

Regardless of students chosen destinations for the week, most seem to have a few things in common; everyone likes to eat good food and meet new people.

"We made going out to eat with Augi's family a priority every night," Haifley said. "We always went somewhere in the village. There was a sushi place, of course a seafood place, and a great steak restaurant. I love to eat, so dinner was always nice."

For some, the food was the best part of the meal, but for others dinner always seem to include a little entertainment.

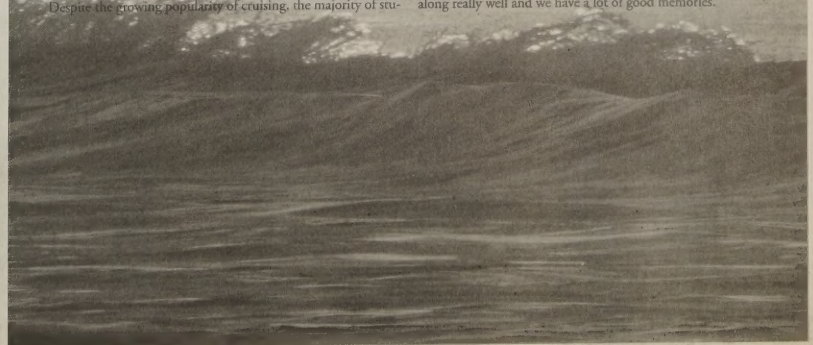
"Our waiter's name was Monte, and he was from India. The waiters all danced and sang almost every night. And they did tricks with things on the table and told good jokes," Lopolito said. "Monte really got to know all of us at the table. He figured out that I eat the most dessert, so he always placed all the desserts in front of me. I got to try all of them every night. Dessert was definitely one of my favorite parts of the day."

While some argue that trying to stay in touch with people met on Spring Break is futile, others feel that with email staying in touch is easy.

"It was fun to go out at night and just meet new people. That was one of the best parts of the trip," Rondot said. "We met a lot of really cool people from Indianapolis that we're goin to try to stay in touch with."

In general, the week gave students a chance to get a break from studying and enjoy some time away with friends. For many seniors, it meant one of the last times to spend time with friends before going to college.

"I shared a room with [three of my friends]. We got really close and just had a lot of good times together," Rondot said. "We got along really well and we have a lot of good memories."



College visits spark student interest

By Kylia Robbrock
Writer

"The key to college planning is starting early and making a to do list of what needs to get accomplished," Counselor Amy Hamilton said.

The seniors are going through their final weeks at high school before they head off to college. The juniors are starting to think more about what they want to do after they are finished with high school. All of the counselors recommend that all students who are planning on attending a college should be visiting the colleges they are interested in. The web is a good place to research the colleges you are interested before you actually go there to visit. Sometimes you will receive information that will help you to eliminate school so you don't have to drive all the way to them.

"We encourage this in the junior year of high school, but students can start as early as freshman year looking at schools. Parents should always go along and a thorough visit should be made ahead of time. I don't encourage visits with a group of friends," Hamilton said.

Though visits with friends are not encouraged, Jon Lehman (11) and Brian Laipple (11) visited Valparaiso together. They were both interested in looking for similar college qualities, like the football program, so their visit was still very productive and informative. When going to visit a college, try to make a scheduled tour ahead of time, and arrive prepared.

"When going on a college visit students should make a check list, which we have one available in the career resources area, on what they need to see while on campus, i.e. dorm tour, sitting in on a class, visiting with current students, meeting with an advisor in their particular major, financial aid, admissions, etc. Bring an unofficial transcript in case they have questions on your academic background and history. Take a camera on your visit and snap 10-12 shots so that you can refer back to the visit without having to physically go back to the campus," Hamilton said.

Allison Douglas (11) has visited six colleges so far. She has visited colleges because they were close to her family, they had a good business program, she has a sibling that went there, or she knows other people are planning on attending it.

"When I am at a college, I look for what their high school academic requirements are, where it is located and its total atmosphere," Douglas said.

"At the colleges I have visited so far, I have talked to the head of what I am hoping to major in, which is criminal justice. Size and their athletic programs are things that I look for in a college, but where it is located is what is most important to me," said Chelsey Shull (11).

There are a lot of preparations that need to be done for college that cannot be done at the last minute.

"I tell students to keep a calendar in their room and mark important dates. Take both the SAT and ACT tests and do that in the junior year. Then narrow down two to three schools by the middle to end of their senior year and see who admits you and can give you the most financial aid. Students need to make deposits by May 1 of their senior year," Hamilton said.

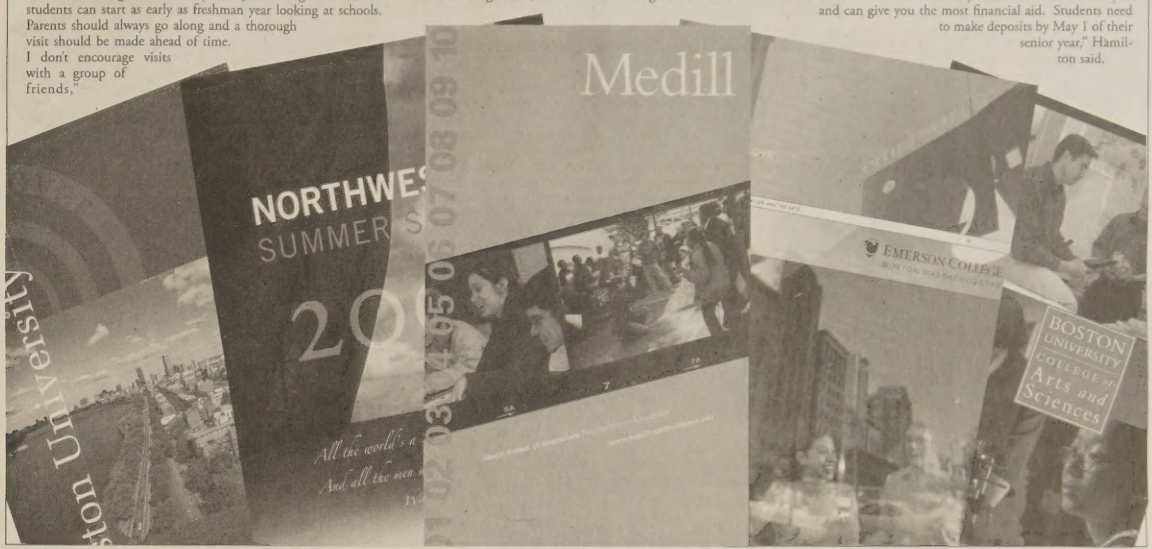


PHOTO ZACH HETRICK

By Katie Corson
Associate Life Editor

What started as pretending to be a flower has turned into a source of enjoyment for Kelly Childs, and something she plans to carry with her throughout her life. Over the past fifteen years, she has danced across the country and even attended camps with some of the best dancers in the business. Before her jet lag could even wear off, she sat down with the Spartana to talk about her dancing career and the dance team's recent trip to Florida for the AmeriDance National Competition.

Spartana: How long have you been dancing?

I started dancing when I was three, but that was stuff like pretend you're a fairy, put your arms in the air and look like a pretty flower kind of thing. I started competing when I was about eight.

Spartana: How did you become interested in dance?

I think a lot of the girls in my neighborhood danced, and our parents all decided it would just be a cool thing for us to do; it would keep us busy and give us something to do.

Spartana: During an average week, how many hours would you say you spend dancing?

With the dance team, I practice Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school, so about eight hours of practice for dance team. Then at the studio, I practice Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and so that's about eight hours for studio. Saturdays, I either spend the whole day at a dance team competition, or I go to the studio and we have practice for productions. So I guess it's about 18 to 20 hours a week.

Spartana: What studio is it?

Tiffany and Company. I really like it there.

Spartana: What are productions?

The studio has competing companies, and there are four of them. All four to them have their individual dances, and then we all come together to do a big number. All 30 of us do a jazz, tap, and lyrical dance, and those are called productions. So on Saturdays we practice for that.

Spartana: Tell me about the dance team's trip to Florida for Nationals.

I had a blast at Disney World because I rode all the rides. I was really afraid of them because I never ride roller coasters. I even went on Tower of Terror, because the whole team was going and they made me go.

Spartana: What was the competition like?

It was really cool, because Alex and I got to go two years ago. The competition has grown a lot just in two years. This year it was international, so there were teams from England and Puerto Rico, so that was cool. It was neat to see a greater level of talent. It was intimidating and it made us work harder.

How did you feel when you found out you had won?

We definitely did the whole jump up and down and scream thing. [When they announced our name] we all turned to each other and our eyes go really wide and we were like, "Oh my gosh, we won!" Then we jumped up and grabbed our big trophy.

Spartana: Did anything else exciting happen while you were in Florida?

I ate Mickey waffles for breakfast, and… oh! It didn't happen to me, but Courtney and Georgette met a Backstreet Boy! They met Brian, the one were all in love with when we were little! They took a picture with him and I was really jealous of that.

Spartana: How many different kinds of dance do you do?

I do jazz and lyrical with the dance team, and at the studio I'm in the Master Company, so I do jazz, ballet, lyrical, and tap in that company. There's also a separate Hip-Hop Company at the studio, and I'm in that. So I guess that's five.

Spartana: Which one is your favorite?

Definitely tap. From a young age I've been tapping, and I guess it's just something I pick up because I play piano and I used to play drums. The rhythm part of tap is what I really enjoy. You can still have style like you do with in all types of dance, but you're making music with your feet. With jazz it's about big arm and leg movements, but in tap the only thing you really focus on is your feet.

Spartana: Do you ever get frustrated with it?

Sometimes because I usually pick up steps really fast, but if I don't then I'll be thinking about it all the time.

I'll be driving home from the studio and I'm thinking about the step instead of the road, or I'll be sitting in class tapping my feet instead of playing attention. Sometimes I'll even start tapping down the aisle at the grocery store, or something like that.

Spartana: Are you planning to dance after high school?

Definitely. I don't think there's any way I could stop dancing just because I graduated high school. Whether or not I dance for college will depend on where I go to school. But all the colleges I applied to have good dance programs. Once I decide where I'm going to go I'll look more seriously at what group or team I'll dance with. But there's no way I could stop.

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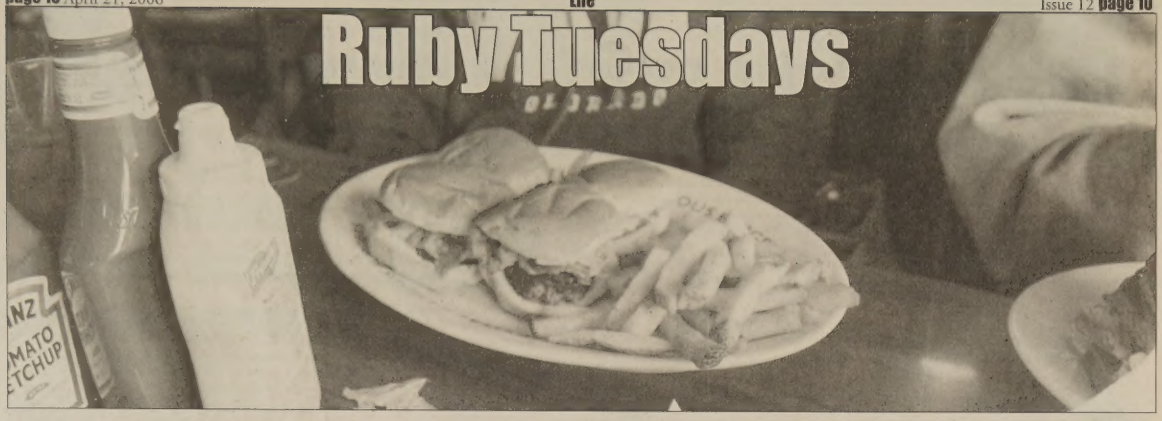
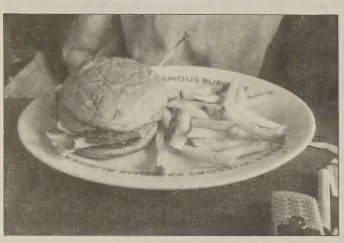
Ruby Tuesdays





Re-inventing Ruby Tuesday, new menu items don't meet expectations

By Annie Baenen, Natalie Sistrunk, Zach Hetrick
Food Reviewers and Guest

Annie: Lately, I have seen a lot of commercials on TV regarding Ruby Tuesday. They have re-done their menu, and are in the process of re-inventing themselves. The topic of most commercials has been the new Ruby minis; four miniature hamburgers that can be eaten in three to four bites. The minis intrigued me, so I decided it was a great place to do the next food review. The atmosphere of Ruby Tuesday is fun. Loud music is playing, the walls are decorated with sports paraphernalia, and an assortment of booths and tables gives it a laid back feel. It also has a separate, closed off area as the bar.

Natalie: When we first walked in the hostess was extremely rude, but our waitress was very friendly. She recommended several specialty burgers and took time to talk to us about previously reviewed restaurants.

Annie: The menu is huge. There is a wide variety of appetizers, soups, salads, burgers, steaks, and pastas. We decided to order the loaded cheese fries appetizer. This is a generous plate of fries, loaded with bacon, cheese, and ranch dressing. It was fabulous and I would definitely get it again.

Natalie: Initially I wanted to order a regular cheeseburger, but I couldn't pass up the chance to try something new, so instead I opted for the bison burger. It was much leaner than most beef, but tasted about the same and came with the usual toppings.

Zach: I ordered the usual; the bacon cheeseburger. The cheeseburger was huge; it came loaded with onions, tomatoes, lettuce, bacon, and American cheese. The burger was really good, the service was great, and the drinks were exceptional. My only complaint is the location. It is quite a hike, on coldwater road, near Glenbrook.

Annie: Zach, as usual, had about ten Mr. Pibbs in a row, mainly to test the endurance of our waitress. She passed the test and stood strong through every refill. I really struggled finding something to order. After much debate, I decided to go ahead and try the minis. I'll be honest, they didn't meet my expectations. There were four miniature burgers, served on small buns, with fried onions, ketchup, and mustard. They came with a heaping portion of fries. I would definitely recommend the raspberry iced tea. It came sweetened and was amazing.

Natalie: The food was good and the service exceptional, but the atmosphere and location left something to be desired. Overall though, I would say that Ruby Tuesday is worth checking out.

Annie: All in all, my experience at Ruby Tuesday was a good one. I would definitely go back. The food was very good, out waitress was very energetic and happy, and the food was good quality for the relatively cheap price. Our bill came to $38, including tax and tip.

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Just introduced mini-hamburgers, much like Powers Hamburgers.

New fears and surprises lie in wait for characters of Ice Age 2

Tensions rise with the temperature in this new animated comedy

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

Much to the delight of the prehistoric animals left over from the first *Ice Age* movie, the cold is finally starting to dissipate. With it, trees, grass, and water are springing up throughout the landscape. All is well in the valley. Sid the sloth (Jon Leguizamo) is running a day camp for kids (well, the kids are running all over *him*, actually), Manny the mammoth (Ray Romano) is as stubborn as ever, and Diego the tiger (Dennis Leary) is quickly learning of his distaste for water. Everyone is happy.

But it isn't long before Sid, Manny, and Diego learn there is something very wrong with their basin. The area they live in used to be a lake, and now that the ice is melting, it is only a matter of time before their home is flooded and they all drown. At any moment the massive glacial dam could collapse and immediately submerge all of its inhabitants.

Manny, Sid, and Diego lead the herd on a three day march to the other side of the basin, where a "boat" awaits to keep them safe (actually, it's an unnaturally large piece of bark).

Meanwhile, Manny is feeling depressed as usual. He refuses to believe he is the last of the mammoths left on earth, but he has gone years without seeing another, so he is beginning to doubt. That all changes when the group stumbles across Ellie (Queen Latifah). At first, Manny is thrilled to finally see another mammoth, but his joy soon turns into confusion. Ellie, having been raised by possums since she was a baby, thinks she is the same species as her brothers, Crash (Sean Williams Scott) and Eddie (Josh Peck). Manny does his best to prove to Ellie that she is a mammoth, although it soon turns out that Ellie is as stubborn as Manny.

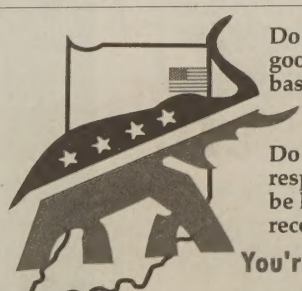
Manny begrudgingly invites Ellie, Crash, and Eddie to join the herd on their march to the other side of the basin. To make matters worse, the ice is melting faster and faster each hour. It soon becomes a race against time as the dam bursts and the water begins to rise. Manny is soon forced into a difficult decision: Should he save his own skin or risk his life to save Ellie, who may be the only other of his kind left alive?

Most sequels fall far short of their predecessors, especially when dealing with cartoons. Although *Ice Age: The Meltdown* is not as good as the original, it definitely lives up to the hype because of its witty humor and likeable characters.

Meltdown is filled with humor for kids and adults alike. I think I was actually laughing more than the kids were because a lot of the funny moments are geared towards adults, where small kids are not old enough to understand their significance. At times, it was laugh-out-loud funny. Sid steals the show with his witty one-liners and klutzy personality. Ellie also generates plenty of laughter with her youthful personality.

The characters in *Meltdown* are all very likable. Every person in the theater can relate to Manny in some way because of his longing for companionship. He is just lonely, and we all have felt that same way in our lives. It is easy to root for him. Diego is also very relatable. Although he pretends to be this fearless creature, he is mortally terrified of water. Ellie and Sid are also likable because of the carelessness and naïveté.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed *Ice Age: The Meltdown*. It is clever, extremely funny, and is perfect for viewers of all ages. Although the adventure sequences are less than admirable, it is hard to expect much from a PG movie geared towards kids. *Meltdown* is a perfect family film and measures up well with the original.



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Founded by Josh Kirlin and Jeff Fraser of Carroll High School

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Band's second album is entertaining, but nothing truly unique

By Tyler Churchward
Business Manager

This issue's review is on a band from SoCal, known as We Are Scientists. I'm not going to kid you, this band is not amazing, but they are entertaining. The band released an EP earlier this year, and released their debut album, With Love and Squalor, on January 10, 2006, on Virgin Records. They will be touring with Arctic Monkeys this summer, but nowhere in the Midwest, just on the east and west coasts.

The first song is the band's second single off the album. "Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt", like practically every other song on the album, has the Franz Ferdinand/Bloc Party-esque guitar sound that seems is quite popular right now. However, the singer is comparable to The Killers' lead singer, but with a bit of a British accent? I honestly don't know why, they're from California.

"This Scene is Dead" sounds like a mellower "Nobody Move, Nobody Get Hurt" with more drum. "Inaction" has a nice, crunchy guitar, and like many punk songs, is rather short—the song is under three minutes. "Can't Lose" is nice and relaxed, and has an awesome sound. This is definitely one of the better songs on the album.

"Callbacks" is short, and, to be honest, pretty annoying. Take a repetitive guitar and a guy singing with some backup singers screaming in the background for two minutes, and you have this song. "Cash Cow" sounds exactly like The Clash, so if you like The Clash, I'm sure you will like this song. "It's a Hit" was their first single, which has a unique sound compared to most of the songs on the album, but could probably get on your nerves.

"The Great Escape" sounds extremely cool; the guitar and drums blend together nicely. "Textbook" lacks the energy that the other songs have, and has some sappy lyrics, but it's a fresh sound—"falling backwards for you, falling over everybody else, I put myself in that position, every time I have the chance" "Lousy Reputation" has a sweet bass riff, but by this time, you should have noticed that the songs really run together. The sound is good and all, but more songs like "Textbook" mixed in would make for a much more enjoyable album to listen to.

"Worth the Wait" has the 80s punk sound (ala The Clash) that took the world by storm, but We Are Scientists just doesn't cut it when they try this sound. When I started listening to "What's the Word", I thought the CD was skipping for a while, because the same sound plays over and over. Frankly, this song is terrible. The guitar in the beginning sounds exactly like "This Scene Is Dead". Alright We Are Scientists, time to think of some new sounds to play.

If you're looking for a new band to get into, We Are Scientists may or may not be the band for you. I'd recommend listening to Arctic Monkeys, Bloc Party, Franz Ferdinand, or The Clash before checking this band out. There are much better bands out there, but maybe We Are Scientists will evolve and their next album won't run together so much.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DILLON KIMMEL AND ALEXIS KLEFEKER

SPREADING LOVE & HOPE

Members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, the Pointe Church, travel to West Virginia, El Salvador, respectively; spend their spring breaks helping those in desperate need

By Dillon Kimmel and Erin Quinn
Executive Editor and Writer

Think of how many people you know who spent their Spring Break generally relaxing. Whether on a beach, on a cruise, by a pool, on vacation, or just in their homes, most of the student body kicked up their feet and caught up on lost sleep and lazy days. Now, how many people do you know who spent their week off school working with their hands, helping other people, and bettering a community? Probably not many.

On Sunday, April 2, five vans left the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church at 4:30 in the morning. Loaded with members of the church youth group, supplies, and good intentions, the vans traveled to Pendleton County, West Virginia.

In Pendleton County, according to the United States Statistical Survey of 2002, 13.8% of the population is living below the Federal Poverty Standards. Pendleton County is also the second poorest county in the 49th poorest state in the nation.

For the following five days, the group lived in a Habitat for Humanity building and spent up to six hours a day cleaning up the area around the work sites, constructing the houses, and working on interior jobs. The Almost Heaven site included five acres of land on which 12 homes are expected to be built, but the youth group only worked on five during their week.

"We were working at two sites, one that already had a family set to live in it and another that would contained the 12 future houses," Eric Krafcheck (11) said.

From the very beginning, the days started no later than 7:00 in the morning, and Monday was no exception. One group faced the task of unloading the 5,000 pounds of food that the St. Elizabeth parish had donated over the year. The food is expected to last the community the rest of the year.

Four year participants Kristina Kartholl (12), Adrianne Bonfitto (12), Andy Wirtner (12), Chris Reed (12), and Bryant Arango (12) received a personally engraved silver hammer at the beginning of the trip. Teenagers, adults, and future homeowners worked side by side on many occasions to get the jobs done.

"On the first day of work, Monday, the concrete on one of the houses on the lot was just being poured. By the end of the week, we had built and erected all of the outer walls and the majority of the frames for the interior walls," Krafcheck said, "Just seeing that progress in only five days time was incredible".

For the rest of the week, the group supplemented work time with free time for games, rest, or personal growth in faith. On Friday, they put on a talent show for the nursing home in nearby Franklin. The group also met the future homeowners on Thursday evening at a community dinner that they held at the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in West Virginia. In addition, the group took two trips up different mountains to enjoy the view and participate in a mass upon the mountain top.

"I really liked the rugged mountain climb that we went on Tuesday night," Cari Landrigan (10) said, "It gives you a feeling of accomplishment when you reach the top, and the view was incredible".

Krafcheck said, "I think that I made a difference in someone's life is a far more rewarding gift than a tan from the beach".

The Pointe Travels to El Salvador

Lori Christner (11) will remember one little girl running towards her and wrapping her arms around her, almost as if she never intended to let go. JT Macleod ('05) will remember teaching all the kids (however unsuccessfully) the game of baseball.

Mandy Armstrong (12) will remember the graciousness of a woman named Esperanza. And every student will remember the children and adults who opened up their lives to a group of people they barely knew.

18 students and adults, including seven current Homestead students and one past graduate, traveled to the city of San Salvador, El Salvador from March 31 to April 7. They included Amanda Armstong (12), JT Macleod ('05), Dillon Kimmel (11), Lori Christner (11), Landon Wagner (12), Lauren Wagner (09), Nathan Murphy (11), and Jeff Price (10).

After months of preparation, the team was more than ready to finally experience what they had been planning for.

"I had been on small trips before where the focus was mainly building projects, and so I was excited to go on a trip that included that but also included evangelism," Armstrong said.

In El Salvador, the team worked at and around two churches: Campamento de Dios and Cuidad de Sion. Both churches are located in the mountainous village of Tepecoyo, located about an hour from the capital city San Salvador. The group spent the first half of the week at Cuidad de Sion. There, the team helped the brand new church paint their walls and build benches for their congregation. Before the team's visit, the church had only about 50 plastic chairs to sit on.

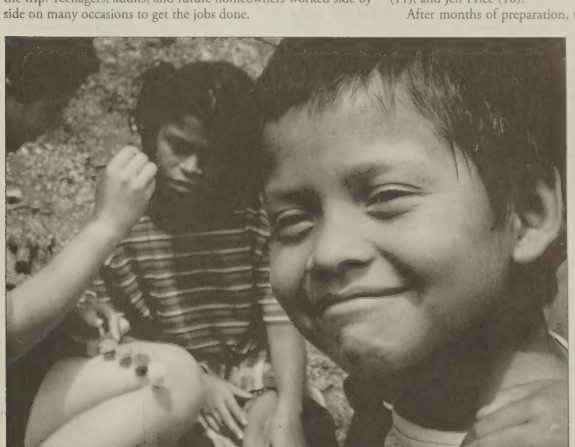
While the building projects were going on, members of the team went door-to-door to share the Gospel with the people of Tepecoyo and invite children to afternoon kid's programs. The second half of the week was spent at Campamento de Dios, a very large and established church about two miles from Cuidad de Sion. There, the team helped the church paint and build tables for the church's new children's wing. Each day, the group held children's programs and continued to evangelize to the people.

"The part of the trip that made the most impact on me was working with the kids. They were so giving and loving. Even though they were so young, I felt like I could learn so much from them," Christner said. For several students, this trip may be the beginning of a life of missions work. Some feel like they are being led in a direction that could take them to El Salvador or elsewhere where they could serve people in need.

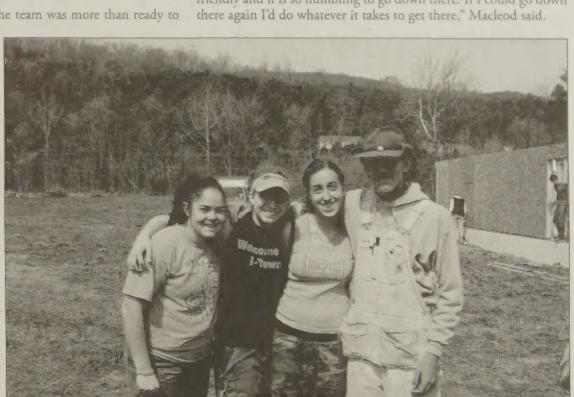
"Right now...I would love to live in El Salvador for at least a little while. Maybe I can go there as part of a study abroad program in college since I want to be a teacher, and I know that's something they're lacking there," Christner said.

While some feel like they are being called to full-time missions work, nearly everyone that went on the trip said they would return.

"[I would go back] in a minute. I love it there. The people are so friendly and it is so humbling to go down there. If I could go down there again I'd do whatever it takes to get there," Macleod said.



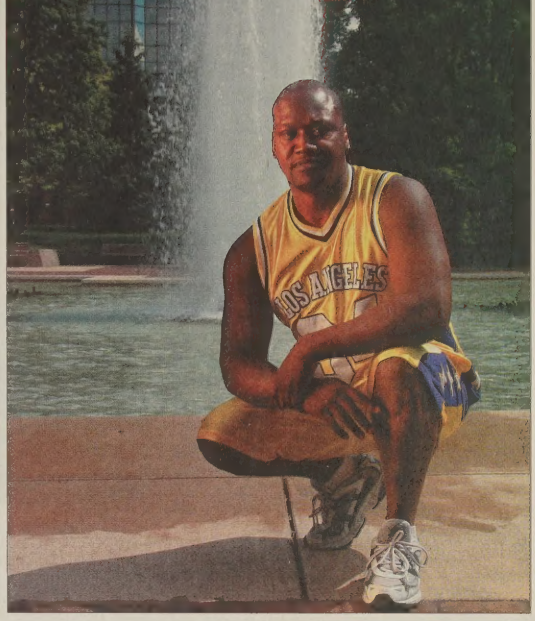
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DILLON KIMMEL AND ALEXIS KLEFEKER



Above left: A child smiles while Lori Christner (11) paints a girl's face in the background. Above: (from left,) Becky Price (10), Alexis Klefeker (10), and Meghan Soat (10) pose with a worker.

Above left: Students built several houses while in West Virginia. Bottom left: Caleb Kimmel speaks to a group of children in Tepecoyo. Above: From left, Alexis Klefeker (10), Becky Price (10), and Meghan Soat (10) pose. Above right: Lori Christner (11) comforts a child in El Salvador.

the faces of AIDS



STORY BY AUSTIN HETRICK
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN GEVERS

Living With AIDS: A Father's Story

Willie Parker is the kind of guy who looks you straight in the eye for as long as you can hold his gaze. His apartment window is open, and street noise mingles with the show on television that he's been watching. An A&W root beer is half-finished on his end table. Parker looks comfortable: his considerable arms are at ease beside him in his chair, his lengthy legs stretch out on the carpet. He could easily be anyone's father watching 'pregame' before a match or relaxing after a hard day. No one would suspect he has AIDS.

"I heard about HIV in maybe, '90, but it wasn't to the extent that someone was explaining to me how you contracted it, I just knew that it was out there and there was no cure to it and that's all I heard. I didn't really learn about AIDS until…well, until I'd gotten it."

Parker was convinced by a friend to get tested. He was persuaded to take it only after his friend treated him to a dinner out and a pack of cigarettes.

"I had 86 T cells, and I had AIDS, I didn't have HIV…Anything that's medically underneath 200 T cells is considered AIDS. If I hadn't gotten tested then, in '99, I probably wouldn't be sittin' here today."

Since that moment, Parker's life has changed dramatically. The results were such a shock to him that seven years later he remembers vividly what he felt.

"I think it's the worst thing that anyone could have told me. Anger, guilt, wantin" to die, the stigma that's behind HIV…you get all those things swirling around in your head, and you just want to kill yourself. I just felt all alone. It took me three weeks to tell my mother. It was just unbelievable, the guilt! You're angry at yourself because you allowed yourself to get this, and then you go off blaming everybody else. So I blamed God, I blamed society, I blamed everybody but myself."

Recalling that day, Parker looks away for the first time. But bringing his gaze back, his voice does not break, and no tears fill his eyes. After years of struggle, Parker seems in control of his disease. He points out many of the changes that he has adapted to with the disease.

"You live in fear with HIV and AIDS…because [people] are more a threat to me than I am to [them]. There's only a certain way that [they] can get what I have. And my fear is that a common cold could turn into pneumonia and kill me. So I have to be extra careful. If it's a nice day but it might be a little cool out, I still have to put a skull cap on. I have to put a light jacket on."

Parker stops and indicates a cap and jacket hanging from his door, ready whenever he should need them.

"[There are] a whole lot of different things that you have to fear from, so I'm not able to be happy and free, as I normally used to be."

Parker says his greatest comforts in his life now are his sons. Though late afternoon sun streams through the window, his youngest sleeps a few rooms away.

"My sons are there for me. I don't want my kids to get this. My baby just turned 12. At 11 he knew how condoms work, and he knows what he can and cannot do when he's with me if I were to start bleeding."

He knows that he was careless: careless because he didn't know anything about AIDS, because he had unprotected sex while on alcohol and drugs, two errors that he wants desperately to ensure will not be made again by anyone he can talk to.

Parker says he has come to grips with AIDS. He has recognized that he made mistakes, and now he's living with the results.

As he walks down his stairs, through his front door and into the afternoon sunlight, Parker doesn't worry about his meds or his blood. For a moment he doesn't seem to worry about anything at all. Instead, he grabs his mail, he says goodbye and turns back inside to wake his son up for the day.

Breaking Stigma: One Person at A Time

The AIDS Taskforce of northeast Indiana are on a mission. Area photographer John Gevers along with French teacher Gregory Fryzel, who served as creative director, and the AIDS Taskforce created the Facing HIV/AIDS Exhibit, which was on display in the community room this week, and featured portraits of northeast Indiana natives living with AIDS.

"We hope that the students will learn that, without their knowing it, their friend, their neighbor, or a family member might be struggling with HIV or AIDS," Fryzel said. "We hope that they will look into the faces of the subjects who came forward to be photographed and say, 'This could be me, or you, or us.'"

In May 2005, Gevers began work on the exhibit. After the AIDS Taskforce asked its 300 clients if any would be willing volunteer, 20 HIV+ clients stepped forward to share their stories and allowed Gevers to photograph them. Each portrait is accompanied by a quote from the subject on their battle with AIDS, how they contracted it, or what they want others to know. Facing HIV/AIDS debuted at the annual AIDS Walk on September 11, 2005 in Fort Wayne. The exhibit will next be on display at the AIDS Walk in South Bend, Indiana.

> "...HIV is not prejudiced, it doesn't care what color you are, how much money you have, what ethnic background you come from."
> -Willie Parker

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and the virus that causes it, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) first became national issues in June, 1981, when the Center for Disease Control (CDC) published a report on a rare form of pneumonia (later attributed AIDS) in five men in Los Angles.

After decades of study, the medical community has a grasp on the disease's functions: HIV attacks the body's defenses, damaging the body's defenders against infection (T-cells). AIDS is the regression of the immune system to a point below 200 T-cells. Those with HIV or AIDS experience motor and memory difficulties, a general weakening of bodily functions, and a susceptibility to diseases or illnesses that usually only attack those with a damaged immune system.

Beginning in the early eighties, the most widely-held stereotype about AIDS was that only gay men could contract it. This theory, although disproved in July 1982 by the documented finding of the first heterosexual with the disease, remains widely-held today.

"[Kids] figure [that] they're not gay and they don't have sex, [so] they don't have [any] way of getting it," Willie Parker, who is featured in the exhibit, said. "But HIV is not prejudiced, it doesn't care what color you are, how much money you have, what ethnic background you come from. All it needs is a host site, which is blood in a body. And high school students and middle school students…put themselves at risk all the time."

Parker has a point. According to the CDC, half of all new HIV infections occur in people under the age of 25. Furthermore, over half of those under age 25 who contract the disease contract it as a result of heterosexual contact.

"High school students have a tendency to think of themselves as 'invincible,'" Fryzel said. "Perhaps this exhibit will impress upon the students at Homestead that AIDS is not a disease that plays favorites to one group of people but rather it is indiscriminate in its scope. None of us is invincible."

Mandi Mast (11), who toured the exhibit with her French class Monday, thinks the exhibit proved that.

"I thought [the exhibit] was very well done, and it did a good job disproving the stereotypes that [accompany] AIDS," Mast said. "…It really just helped me see other people with AIDS, it made things clearer. It was shocking to find out that someone got AIDS from being stabbed and raped...that scenario never would have popped into my head before I saw the exhibit."

Mast refers to one of the most emotional of the portraits (displayed in the bottom left of this page). The quote accompanying that photograph reads, in part:

"I am a survivor! After I was raped, stabbed several times, and then ultimately diagnosed with HIV, I attempted suicide more than once and have had multiple hospitalizations. I was given a death sentence. Yes, I have had my battles with this disease, but I will not let it defeat me."

Willie Parker is especially emphatic about teaching teenagers the value of caution.

"It's hard for me because I don't want to see kids get HIV from lack of education," Parker said. "I don't want 'em to get it at all, but, mainly not get it from lack of education. Protect yourself because no one else can do it better, it's all on you."

Photos on this page are printed courtesy of John Gevers, NEW MEDIA BREW, Inc.

DISEASE INFORMATION

- AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the virus that causes to AIDS
- Half of all new infections are among those 25 and under
- 50% of those 25 and under who are infected get infected as a result of heterosexual contact

CAPTIONS

Portrait subjects featured in the exhibit counter clockwise from top right: Willie Parker, Lori Craig, Jeff, Dawn Stephens, Sean Twaits, Cowboy and Patty, Cynthia, Cindy and Brent Atz

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Co-chapter of the year

At the state convention in Bloomington, the HHS SADD chapter was named co-chapter of the year. They have won the runner up crown three years previous. page 2

students against destructive decisions SADD

Update on Centerpoint: progress made

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor

If guidance counselor Tom Quigley and assistant principal Steve Lake's plans are fulfilled, by the middle of May, 90% of students will have schedules matching their original course requests.

"[As of now], 76% of students have full completed schedules," Quigley said. "That sounds pretty good, but it also means that 500 students don't have them."

The scheduling process is now on step 17 out of 18, and SACS is far ahead of any other district in the country that is using Centerpoint.

"We are at the forefront of this," Lake said. "There's only one other school corporation in Iowa City that's remotely close to what we're doing."

Once the program has met Lake and Quigley's goals for automatic scheduling, the remaining students whose requests were not met by the program will have to sit down (as in years past) with counselors, and change their schedules in order to make them work with the schedule of courses that meet the majority of course requests.

"There are a lot of different problems that can throw one student's schedule off," Lake said. "If a student is in a specialized class that only is offered one period, that can make things very difficult for the program to accommodate him [or her]."

Centerpoint was intended to allow students to choose their teachers as early as this year. According to Lake, Quigley, and superintendent Dr. Brian Smith teacher preferences are now too difficult to incorporate. Quigley and Lake do hope to have the option available next year.

"It's just not practical this year, it's too complex and Pearson has basically told us they can't do it," Lake said. "There are people out there that think we don't want kids to have that option, and that's just not true."

"Teacher preferences are definitely something we'll be trying to work in next year," Quigley said.

Because of the complexity of switching software, this year has been particularly difficult for Lake and Quigley. It has taken months for the program to progress to where it currently is, and Lake and Quigley are mixed on whether it was worth it.

"It has been a monster," Quigley said. "But the thing is, we're only dealing with one part of Centerpoint. While this is more of a pain for us and we're losing the concept of arena scheduling for this year, students and parents have been able to see their grades at all times, and teachers have been able to update more regularly. So there are some tradeoffs…but we have put in a lot of work with this program."

STARRING

Trevor Alt
Emcee

Kristina Kartholl
Sally Bowles

Tommy Lyday
Clifford Bradshaw

Emma Famsworth
Fraulein Schneider

Kristina Kartholl (12) strikes a pose near the end of 'Cabaret'. The musical opens tonight and will show three times.

'Cabaret' opens tonight

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

After some controversy earlier this year surrounding the spring musical, the time has finally come for the curtain to lift on this year's musical, Cabaret.

Tonight is the opening night for Cabaret. Tomorrow, May 12, and May 13 are the other three performance nights.

"[Cabaret] is about how far people are willing to go to stay alive," drama director Ed Koczergo said in an interview with the *Spartana* in January.

The cast, which includes Kristina Kartholl (12), Trevor Alt (12), Tommy Lyday (12), Chris Reed (12), Austin Hetrick (11), Jim Katz (12), Andy Wirtner (12), and Emma Farnsworth (11), has been working on the play since mid-March, but the workload has really picked up in the last month or so.

"We started about the second week of March. By the time we got back from Spring Break, things really started rolling along. There are some very nice things going on," drama director Ed Koczergo said.

Koczergo hopes the audience will take something positive away from seeing Cabaret.

"I would like [the audience] to react by saying to themselves, 'Boy, they took very difficult, mature material and

see Cabaret, on page 2

CABARET INFO
Showtimes: Friday, May 5, Saturday, May 6, Friday May 12, Saturday, May 13
Call 431-2266 for reservations

Potter wins the primary for Aboite Township board

School board also elected during general election

By Karolina Heyduk and Puja Parikh
Writer and News Editor

The politics of Allen county mixed with the Southwest Allen County Schools in the recent Indiana primaries, where the election of two positions on the school board coincided with Government and We the People teacher Keith Potter's run for a position on the Aboite Township board.

Potter was one of three candidates for the Board that won during the primary. In November, the three winners will have to face Democratic candidates during the general election. However, as of now, no Democratic candidates have been named.

On the May 2 primary, Bruce Westrick, Janet S. Bolyard, and Potter beat Orrin R. Sessions and Alyn Biddle with 1334, 1125, and 965 votes, respectively.

The Aboite Township Board consists of a group of three people who assist and check on the Township Trustee, who is the main township official.

"Reviewing budges, contracts, and decisions of the trustee is the main focus of the job," Potter said.

When asked why Potter decided to run for a public position, he replied, "I decided to run for the position because as a government teacher I have an interest in government and I saw this position as a way I can get involved in my community while not giving up my position at Homestead."

Potter's job is part-time as there are only four mandatory meetings a year. Other meetings are added as needed.

"The big issue for Aboite Township is working with the city now that part of the township has been annexed into the city," said Potter. "Also, the talk of consolidation of city and county government could have a big impact on township government."

Other winners included Bill Brown over Marla Irving, the incumbent, in the Republican primary for Country Commissioner in district two. This hotly contested primary was a surprise as Brown won by 4170 votes. In district three, Linda K. Bloom, the incumbent, defeated Roy A. Buskirk.

Tina Taviano, a Democrat, is the first female to be the nominee for Allen County Sheriff. Ken Fries is the Republican sheriff nominee.

Tom Hayhurst and Mark Edward Souder are the Democratic and Republican candidates for the third district. Hayhurst won over fellow Democrats Kevin Boyd, Thomas Allen Scharader, and Edward W. Smith. Souder easily defeated William Larsen in the Republican primary.

District four ran Calvert "Cal" Miller, the incumbent, against newcomer Fredrick A. Warner. Miller won by 1125 votes.

Richard G. Lugar won the Republican primary for US Senator. Lugar was the only one running, and as of yet, faces no Democratic opponent.

As for Potter, when asked what he was planning to do next, he stated, "Aboite Township is currently being run very successfully. I am not running to make big changes but to continue the success and help the township successfully work with the city."

SACS school board members serve four-year terms, but only two positions were up for election in the primary (the other three will be elected in 2008). Voters from the entire district are allowed to vote for all members, despite the township of residency. The school board is comprised of five members; two members come from Aboite Township, two come from Lafayette Township, and one position serves as an "at-large" member that can be elected from either township.

For a position representing Aboite Township,

see Elections, on page 2

AP Week: 2006

Students from all grades look back on busy week

By Lee Farnsworth
Writer

"Advanced Placement (AP) can change your life. Through college-level AP courses, you enter a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school; through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities."

The College Board has that to say about the AP courses that they offer. Especially during this time of year, with AP tests halfway over, students are consumed more than ever with impending AP exams.

"Right now I have at least a book or two for every subject," Tom Grimes (12), who is taking eight AP tests said, "I just review out of the books and take any practice test that I can get my hands on."

Students at Homestead are engaged in tests from subjects ranging from English Literature to Calculus. The tests are administered at Homestead in the community rooms and other rooms through the careful work and planning of the Homestead counselors. Most student tests consist of a multiple-choice section followed by essays or free response questions. Tests usually last

see AP Tests, on page 2

earthfest 2006

Day to celebrate the Earth scheduled for next Thursday

By Katherine De Rosa
Writer

One day to celebrate the earth. On Thursday, May 11, 2006, student government will sponsor Earthfest, a Homestead tradition which brings music, food, and fun together. Earthfest will be similar to previous years, but many more additions are being implemented this year to provide for a fun day.

Tickets for the event will go on sale in the back of the cafeteria, Wednesday, May 1 for $5. Earthfest t-shirts, which will suffice for a ticket, will go on sale Wednesday as well for $10. These t-shirts, displaying a unique design, were created by Kurt Nettleton and Larry Buchanan.

"I look forward to Earthfest every year. It's always fun to listen to the bands and I love the t-shirts."

A new addition to Earthfest this year will be

see EarthFest, on page 2

EARTHFEST INFO
Thursday, May 20
6:00 - 10:00
Freshman Academy Courtyard

GRAPHIC: KURT NETTLETON

BRIEFS

STOCK MARKET GAME
Two teams placed in Indiana Stock Market Simulation game. Susan Summers' team placed fourth in state, and Jeff Livensparger's team placed fifth in state in the high school division. Summer's team placed first in the region, while Livensparger's placed second.

INTL. SCIENCE FAIR
Javed Sayed (12) will be participating in the International Science Fair, that is going to be held in Indianapolis. Sayed qualified for the International Science Fair after winning the both high school competitions at the regional and at the state level.

SPEECH RESTRUCTURING
The speech team board is completely restructured for next year to accommodate the newly formed debate team. Chief Executive Officer of Speech and Debate will be Puja Parikh (11). President will be David Greco (10) and President of Debate will be Ashley Heath (10).

IN THIS ISSUE

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SADD named co-chapter of the year

By Margaret Distler
Designer

To celebrate orange ribbon week and gain insight on state-wide fundraising activities, fifteen SADD members traveled to Bloomington for the state convention. The group returned having received the honor of being named Indiana SADD Co-Chapter of the Year.

PHOTOS MARGARET DISTLER

SADD members watch guest speaker Kevin Wanzer start off the convention with an ice breaker exercise. Top right: Whitney Johnson (12) hands out information at the convention. Johnson was one of the leaders who traveled to Indianapolis a day early to set up.

"We were excited to win Co-Chapter of the Year because we've been runner-up for the past three years," Carolyn Rhodebeck (12) said. "As a senior and president of SADD, it feels great to have our hard work recognized."

Rhodebeck's favorite activity with SADD this year was Eat n' Drive because she loved seeing the whole community get involved.

"I love doing Prom Promise, too…the wrecked car reminds students of the consequences of their actions."

Over the past year, Rhodebeck has worked hand in hand with the chapter's adviser, computer specialist Laura Johnson, to make the ideas become reality.

"I think the best part of being an adviser is helping the students educate their peers about the choices that they make. They are a special group of young people that I respect because they have learned to lead by example. The commitment they have made to do what is right when others around them may be making poor choices takes courage and I admire that."

Johnson enjoyed the statewide SADD conference since it gave everyone a chance to relax, especially after Eat n' Drive. The conference encouraged the several hundred students attending to be leaders and help others make smart choices.

Guest speaker Kevin Wanzer opened the Conference with a comical presentation that served as an icebreaker. Real Life Media also gave a presentation, which included several movie clips and a dance-off. Their message showed that each SADD member is already an everyday hero because they help others make smart choices.

"[The presenters] were energetic and inspiring. I liked Kevin because he was funny and had tons of energy," business teacher Karen Hirschy, another SADD adviser, said.

Among other activities, the chapter participated in the "Quick-Click Challenge," where students raced from seat to seat in an SUV trying to beat other chapters from around the state. Michael Dorko (12), Julia Poorman (12), Mandy Armstrong (12), and Rachel Lill (10) represented the chapter. They completed the challenge in less than 45 seconds, but did not place in the top three.

The chapter was also able to share some of their own activities with other Indiana SADD chapters during the Idea Jubilee. Each chapter brought a display where they showed off their projects and fundraisers for other SADD members to see.

"The Idea Jubilee was a lot of fun because I got a lot of ideas for things we can do for our SADD chapter," Lauren Bachle (10), a SADD member, said.

Cabaret, continued from page 1

handled it very well.' That's what I would like to hear," Koczergo said.

The show, which centers around the decadent nightclub the Kit Kat Klub in Nazi-occupied Germany, intertwines three separate storylines: the love affair between an older couple, the "main attraction" at the Kit Kat Klub, Sally Bowles (Kartholl), and the bisexual author who falls in love with her. The emcee (Trevor Alt) of the Kit Kat Klub (also called the Master of Ceremonies) narrates the musical throughout.

Koczergo has been impressed with the cast's ability to handle the intricate script and the difficult material in Cabaret.

"[They have] been able to handle very complex material. We are dealing with really fascinating issues here. Just the idea of the Nazis coming to power in the early 1930's is enough for anybody to get sick to his or her stomach... So for them be able to grasp the severity of that, the unbelievability of it, has really been a good thing," Koczergo said.

Because of the complexity of the plot, Koczergo also stressed how important it has been for every cast member to not only have an excellent understanding of his or her part but also to have an understanding of other student's roles.

"The fact that most of the principle characters have been at rehearsal every day has given them a chance to see what other people are doing so they can match up whatever their particular symbolism might be," Koczergo said.

Kartholl said she is nervous but does not think it will affect her too much.

"I'm slightly nervous, but I'm going to try to harness that nervous energy into my acting," Kartholl said.

Kartholl also expressed gratitude towards Koczergo for his constructive criticism.

"[Koczergo] has given me a deeper understanding of my character and her relationship with the other characters," Kartholl said.

Finally, Kartholl seemed very excited about tonight's performance and feels the cast is ready.

"I think we will be able to pull it off. We have made a lot of progress," Kartholl said.

EarthFest, continued from page 1

the canned food drive May 8 through the 12.

At lunch in the back of the cafeteria, Student Government will be collecting cans and bottles at each lunch. The fifth period class, for each lunch, that collects the most cans and bottles will receive a free pizza luncheon. Three pizza parties will be given away in total.

An Ultimate Frisbee Tournament will also precede Earthfest. On Wednesday, May 10, the Ultimate Frisbee Tournament will take place at 5 p.m. on the football field.

If students are still interested in signing up, they can do so until May 5. Teams must consist of at least seven players. Most students agree that this Ultimate Frisbee Tournament, also sponsored by Student Government, will be a fun kick-off to Earthfest.

"I'm going to play on the Sunshine Gang for the Frisbee Tournament. I can't wait!" an eager student, Luke Neally (10), said. The tournament will be a fun addition to previous Earthfests.

Earthfest, which will run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursday night, will be filled with music, food, and activities.

"Earthfest should be a day where students can hang out, relax, and have fun," says Sophomore Class President, Kate Taylor.

Earthfest will take place outside in the Freshmen Academy Courtyard (the space between the Freshmen Academy and the main building) and parking will be in the Junior and Senior lots.

"I think it's a cool idea to have Earthfest in the Freshman courtyard," said Ali Buck (10). "Nobody really has made use of it yet, so I'm glad somebody thought too."

"I think having the bands perform outside gives an "earthy vibe" which suits the day," said Greg Kyes-Myland (10).

Food and refreshments will be available the entire time at Earthfest. National Honor Society will be selling tea, the art club will offer face-painting, and J.C.L. will be selling Shaved Ice.

Some groups performing include Agatha, Take Sides, Do Ya Dig?, Purple Turtle, The MarksMen, and Derck and the Dominos. Performances by Destany Maddox, Maggie Peters, Jim Katz, and Tommy Lyday will also occur.

"Earthfest gives us an opportunity for people to hear our new songs which are premiering at Earthfest," Jon Swain (11) said.

Andrew Reiman is excited to be playing at Earthfest as well.

"Earthfest allows people to hear the variety of music styles Homestead students have to offer," Reiman (10) said.

Many different styles of music, most composed by Homestead students, will be played at Earthfest. These styles include acoustic and electric guitar, folk, alternative, various types of jazz, funk, skacore, and metal. This wide range in music styles, allows for students to enjoy, many different types of music.

"Earthfest is always a good way to just chill, hang out with friends, and hear some good music," Tommy Lyday (12) said.

"I'm looking forward to playing at Earthfest this year. I've gone the past two years, but I think it will be a lot of fun to play as well," Phil Carroll (11) said.

Student Government hopes to send proceeds to help add to the courtyard.

"We hope to plant flowers and trees and maybe picnic tables to help the courtyard. We feel that Earthfest would be the perfect day to do so in spirit of the event," Larry Buchanan (11), Executive Board Vice-President said.

Science academic superbowl team advances to next level

By Jim Katz
Writer

Always looking for an opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience heated competition, the school's finest took part in the academic super bowl competition, with the science team on its way to the state competition.

The academic super bowl is run by the IASP (Indiana Association of School Principals). Teams in the senior division, which is designed for high school students, have six subjects in which students can compete: English, fine arts, interdisciplinary, math, science, and social studies. Each subject consists of five students.

The participants are given an outline for each subject. The time period chosen for this year is 1880-1920, or the Progressive Era.

A competition consists of 25 questions, with high score winning. Only three members are allowed to be out on the floor at any given time, so after twelve questions, teams are allowed to swap out two members, with the team captain staying on the floor throughout the competition.

Questions are read, and the teams have anywhere from 20-40 seconds to chose one of four multiple-choice answers. A correct answer gives the team one point; an answer incorrect gives the team zero. If an error occurs during the reading of a question, there are 5 alternate questions that can be used.

The science team, which consists of: Tom Grimes (12), Danny Panyard (12), Abhi Vemula (12), Luke Walker (12), team captain Evan Niner (12), and team advisor Mr. Stumpf began preparing back in February for competition by dividing up the material in order to ensure that the team had at least one member up at the time who would have studied any one portion of the material. The material for the science team included flight, tunnels, quantum theory, genetics, and various scientists and diseases.

There are two guaranteed competitions each year: first there is NHC meet and then regionals. NHC has no effect on state finals, but all of the scores from the regionals are collected for each subject within each class (school size). The top seven team scores are invited to participate at State, which is the culmination and final competition.

At NHC, the science team placed second. The team won regionals and was fifth overall. The scores were close for the top seven, which means the team is on par with the rest of the state, which they will compete with May 6.

Some members have been competing since middle school, but others, like Niner, we introduced in a less formal manner:

"I head about it on the morning announcements."

As to why they spend they're time preparing for and going to competitions, Panyard replied:

"I do academic super bowl because it's a fun way to hang out with my friends and compete in an area where we're talented. Good times."

Elections, continued from page 1

incumbent Sherry Chapman ran against Tina Rusk, with Chapman winning in a closely contested race. David Jones ran against incumbent Holly Glick for the Lafayette Township seat. Glick won the seat. But board president John Blum expects that the board, regardless of its members, will continue to serve the district.

"I would hope that each board member's goal would be to represent the entire school district at all times in order to achieve the best possible results for all stakeholders of SACS," Blum said.

The board meets every two weeks to discuss various topics ranging from fiscal budgets to new SACS programs, such as drug testing and the Freshmen Academy.

For the 2005-2006 school year, the board focused on implementing the new curriculum at the Academy, improving security throughout the school district, overseeing the completion of the new Woodside Middle School, changing start times for classes, and reducing the property tax rate in the district by 4.4 percent for 2007.

But while students relax during the summer, board members continue to meet and plan for the future school year. This summer the board hopes to complete the expansion of Covington Elementary, review the drug testing program at the middle and high schools, and see how well the Academy's results match up with the original educational goals and philosophy. The board also hopes to develop the oversight of staff and curriculum by department chairs at Homestead, as well making certain that SACS provides an education that meets state and federal standards.

Blum is optimistic about the school board while it continues to discuss and manage difficult issues in the district.

"I truly believe we have a very unique operating board…." Blum said. "It works cooperatively to achieve results in order to help teachers and administrators achieve their goals in educating students across our district."

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AP Tests, continued from page 1

about two and a half hours.

"There's a lot of last minute cramming," Jenny Shao (12), who is taking 6 AP tests, said. "But you just have to go over the information and know the material."

Homestead currently offers a variety of AP classes in every subject. The classes include fine arts subjects, foreign languages, computer classes, and others.

The variety and number of AP classes that Homestead offers to its students make it one of the top AP schools in the area and state. However, some students would like to see more AP classes offered, especially AP level physics classes, which were once offered at Homestead.

"I am extremely happy with the number of AP classes Homestead offers," Abhi Vemula (12) said. "Homestead is one of the few schools that offers as many classes as it does and we're extremely fortunate to have as many opportunities as we do."

Any student can sign up for any AP test he or she chooses, regardless of what classes they are enrolled in. Homestead also does not require students enrolled in an AP class to take that subject's AP test.

This has raised some issues in past years concerning the difficulty of AP classes. Some argue that students should be required to take the AP because it is the only way that colleges and the College Board can evaluate the effectiveness of an AP program.

Across the country, many schools are being evaluated to see whether they will be allowed to continue calling classes "AP." The intent is to make sure that all classes with the AP label meet a certain standard of difficulty.

"I view these two weeks (of AP testing) kind of like finals in college," Shao said. "AP tests are a good indicator of how much you really know, especially on a national scale."

A riot of my own

AP classes should not just be about the AP test scores

Perpetuates the idea that class is about memorization

Ah, the lovely days of May. The beginning of the countdown to the end of school (thirty two). The excitement and gossip surrounding everyone's Prom date. The refreshing spring rain and the fresh scent of flowers in the air. The Advanced Placement tests.

For those of you who, like me, have chosen during your "high school career" to take one of these, at times, masochistically challeging classes, you will understand my enthusiasm for these days of head aches and sore hands.

After filling out yet another mountain full of paperwork (seniors will understand what I mean), the test begins. A three-hour struggle to remember what your classes learned that Monday that you nodded-off and then turn that into

Wouldn't it be much more effective and helpful for these "advanced" students to study material that pushes them in the subject field, focusing on understanding, rather than memorization and performance?

Jim Katz
Columnist

something profound, though not too creative as to waste time. Oh the bliss!

But the real issue for me is not the difficulty of the test, because that is their purpose, to test you on a year's worth of material. The real issue for me is the underlying, basic premise of some of these tests. The idea that an entire class of high-achieving and intelligent students, arguably the school's finest, spend vast amounts of time learning material specifically geared toward earning a high score on a test that helps the school at least as much as the student.I will concede that AP scores can give credit to college-bound students who want to either take more advanced courses or graduate, which is a major benefit and motivator for students.

But doing this only perpetuates the idea that what a student would learn in the class is merely memorization, not a class where experience leads to a deeper understanding as a future leader of the up-and-coming generation of human beings. Wouldn't it be much more effective and helpful for these "advanced" students to study material the pushes them in the subject field, focusing on understanding, rather than memorization and performance?

One could make the argument that in certain subjects, especially math and science subjects, that the tests do test comprehention and that preparing for the test is just another method of learning the subject, which is a relatively valid point. But what about English tests? How does it help a student to be able to read a passage, analyze it, summarize it, and write a formulaic essay in 40 minutes? It doesn't. All it does is teach students that English, like other subjects, can be broken down and cranked out like boat motors. So as we find ourselves midway through the days of colored bubbles, stop and smell the freshly-sharpened pencils, listen to the ceaseless mumbling of test-takers, and the slow, subtle slipping away of our own minds, to be replaced with a stack of flash cards and a blindfold.

Oh the joys of May!

CARTOON SHANE LUTTRELL

LGBT suporters should be applauded for courage

Students display courage, determination in participating in tenth annual Day of Silence, which symbolizes the silencing and oppression of LGBTs

Silence speaks volumes. This was the idea behind the tenth annual day of silence. The day of silence is meant to help end anti- lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) harassment and discrimination. This year at Homestead a few students participated by duct taping their mouths shut, and wearing t-shirts supporting LGBT rights. The day of silence is a student led day of acitivisism that attempts to show people that the discrimination of LGBTs is unacceptable. The day of silence is meant to symbolize the silencing and oppressions that LGBTs feel everyday.

The editorial board feels that it is a good thing that students at Homestead are standing up for the rights of others. We feel that all human beings have the right to do what makes them happy. Lets look at the facts. The day of silence does not hurt anybody, but only helps the minorities in America. The editorial board feels that day of silence is very positive because it serves to educate about the damaging effects of anti-LGBT harassment, while not interfering with the learning environment of other students. The day is also effective for those who are LGBT because it allows them to see just how much support they have from the student body, and serves as a much needed reminder for these students who can be made to feel isolated and alone.

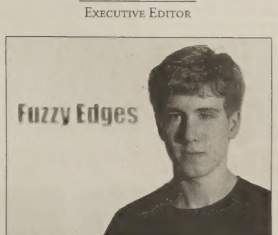
As a newspaper which enjoys the right to free press, we feel especially passionate towards anyone who fights for first ammendment rights everywhere. As Americans, we have an obligation to stand for those who are having these rights denied. Regardless of a person's personal preferences or beliefs, we must embrace them as equals.

The day of silence was a forceful reminder of just how many minorities have their own voices silenced every day. In this government in which many times majorities rule, we must not overlook the rights of the minority in this case, those Homestead students who choose to go silent were in fact using their actions to speak up for this often forgotten segment of the population.

Hetrick: 'Cancer is not my enemy'

Hetrick says battle is not with cancer, discusses his experiences with the disease

By Austin Hetrick
Executive Editor



I'm being rolled down a long corridor, surrounded by bright stainless linens, and my brown teddy bear with his red sweater is riding next to me. I'm holding his hand, and though I know someone is pushing me, it is my bear that makes me feel comfortable; makes me feel like I am not alone. Sunlight streams in from the bay windows on my right. I'm two years old, but for some reason I feel no fear of what is at the end of the corridor. The walls around me are painted a faded yellow, the pastel color of a crayon.

When my bear and I turn the corner we find ourselves in a surgery room. My bear is taken away, and a room lit with florescent lights opens before me. The faint smell of anesthetic mingles with the tang of cold metal. The whir and hum of ventilators and electronics seem to fill up the room's every corner. I think I can make out my mom and dad on the other side of a dark mirror. They seem to wave to me. I start to cry.

I've had this dream regularly since I was five. That was three years after I lost the vision in my left eye to cancer. My parents tell me I saw in my dream the hospital in Philadelphia where I had my surgeries. They can't tell me how much of my dream is imaginary or real, only that it rings true in spots. This is my earliest memory.

My dad lost his wife a year ago to cancer. Second-hand smoke probably killed Pam, and even before she died dad seemed set on changing the system that had let Pam get sick because of what others were doing. He wrote columns, he appeared at town meetings, he told stories, quoted sources, shed tears and changed the law.

My friend Mario's mom had breast cancer. She's clear now, and raising money for a cancer walk that Mario and I and a few of our friends will be attending at the end of May. But she, like millions of other women and men across the country, are walking to destroy cancer.

My grandma Pat died when I was five of melanoma, years of tanning had taken their toll. And so my mom insists yearly that my brother and I wear sunscreen at all times in the summer…sometimes I do, sometimes I don't.

Cancer is not my enemy. I view death like I view a long portage or a paddle on Lake Agnes: sometimes the portage is filled with logs and water and there are bugs everywhere along the trail, sometimes the paddle can't help but be into the wind: but you hold your head up high all the same and walk into the woods. You grip the paddle tighter, smile at the other two kids in your canoe, and pull harder than ever. I don't hate cancer for what it has taken from me. I don't hate the disease any more than it can hate me.

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Profanity may appear in *the Spartana* with the approval of the adviser, but only in cases of direct quotations, or if it is necessary for clarity. Material which is libelous or obscene and could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed.

Public input will be accepted in forms of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel and obscenity. Those which could cause a substantial and material disruption as defined by the supreme court will not be printed. Letters can be E-mailed to *the Spartana* at thespartana@gmail.com, or dropped off in room 620.

Staff members support First Amendment rights and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the editorial board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. Students will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

E-mail: thespartana@gmail.com

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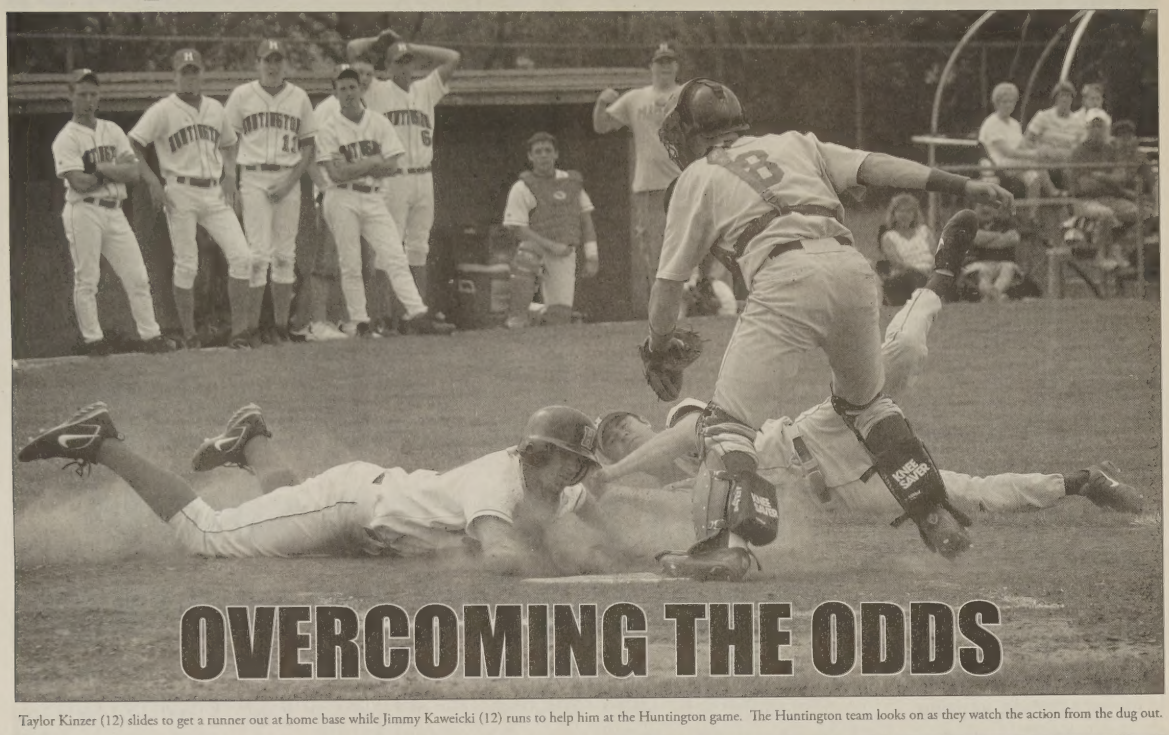
Sports

Winning season

Brendan O'Hara (12) and the lacrosse team continue to work hard through the season. page 5



OVERCOMING THE ODDS

Taylor Kinzer (12) slides to get a runner out at home base while Jimmy Kaweicki (12) runs to help him at the Huntington game. The Huntington team looks on as they watch the action from the dug out.

Young team boasts 12-2 record; 2-0 in conference play

By Tim Clark
Writer

As the halfway point of the baseball season passes, the Spartans are in the driver's seat, boasting a 12-2 record (2-0 in the conference). The Spartans have gained enough attention with their dominating pitching and unmatched offense to be ranked sixth in the Indiana High School Baseball Coach's Association poll. Despite their performances so far, Coach Keith Potter warns that some tough tests lay ahead for the Spartans, especially in their conference schedule.

"The NHC is really tough this year," Potter said. "Going into the NHC season, the worst team in the league had a 7-5 record. You've got Norwell and Belmont that are in the top 10 in 3A and Columbia City was honorable mention in 4A. Every game in the NHC is going to be really tough. It's a real tough conference this year."

The Spartans are confident in themselves, however, to weather the NHC storm as some big NHC games approach.

"We're playing really good as a team," Josh Butcher (11) said. "We're not all individuals. We are just one whole team working together trying to win all of the conference games. I think we have a really strong team that could win another sectional championship."

Butcher also points out that one of the toughest opponents coming up will be the Norwell Knights. The Knights have always been a strong contender in the NHC.

"Norwell will be (a big obstacle)," Butcher said. "They've got a new pitcher that was from Wayne and they just have a really strong team that's been playing together."

With a strong cast of players that is not heavy on veteran leadership, the Spartans have also had to rely on some younger talent, like Ryan Wright, a sophomore slugger who boasts the team lead in batting average.

"(Ryan Wright) has really done well," Potter said. "He's played well at shortstop and leads the team in hitting and home runs and is tied with Taylor Kinzer for RBI's."

His power and skill does not surprise Wright even though he is one of youngest members of the team.

"No I'm not surprised," Wright said about his strong start. "I have a lot of self confidence when it comes to baseball. I've done it my whole life and I expect nothing but the best when I play baseball. It comes pretty naturally to me."

Wright also expressed how thrilled he is with the new players coming into the line-up every game and contributing.

"I'm most impressed about how the guys that haven't played varsity before have stepped up," Wright said. "With returning only a few starters from last year's team we knew we had to fill a big void and I think we've done that pretty well so far."

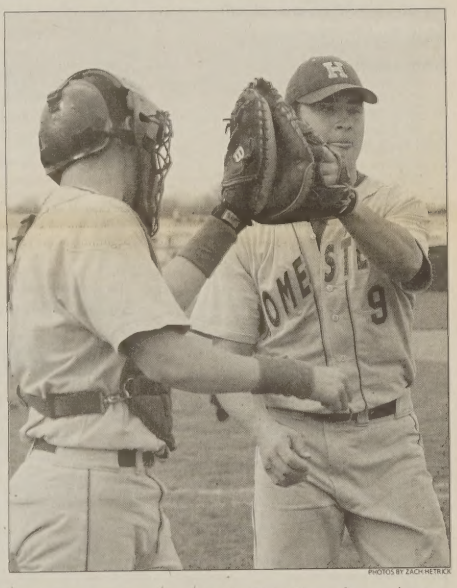
Unlike last year, when the Spartans had a rough stretch following their first two losses of the season, they rebounded after two straight losses to post another six-game winning streak. Potter says as easily as the team is 12-2 right now they could be 14-0.

"I don't think we were doing anything wrong," Potter said. "We just ran up against good teams and didn't get the breaks in those games because we easily could have won them. We're just playing well and we'd like to keep it going."

Regardless of the outcome of the games in the coming weeks, Coach Potter wants his team to continue playing hard and playing fundamental baseball.

"The main thing we work on every day is defense," Potter said. "We've got good pitching especially with Kyle Leiendecker and Taylor Kinzer and we know if we don't make mistakes they are going to keep us in the game. We've got good enough hitting that our hitting is going to do the job. We've just got to eliminate mistakes on defense and we should be in good shape."

"If we play well we can do anything," Wright said.

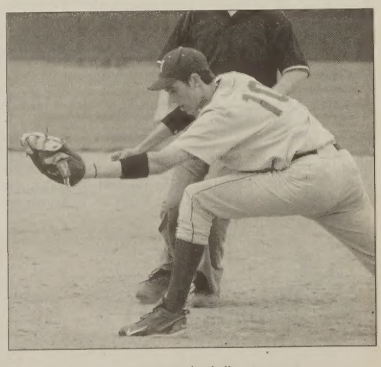


PHOTOS BY ZACH METRICK

Jimmy Kaweicki (12) congratulates pitcher, Taylor Kinzer, after a good inning.

Kyle McWilliams (11) prepares to field a grounder.

Ryan Cicero (11) slides safely into base to avoid getting out.



Josh Butcher (11) reaches to catch a ball to get an out.

Tennis works to keep undefeated record, looking at state

By Laura Summers
Writer

Continuing their impressive season, the girls varsity tennis team has remained undefeated in regular match competition. With four matches behind them, the girls are on their way to a successful campaign.

On Tuesday, April 18, the team took on New Haven in an away match. Yet again, they pulled out a successful 5-0 victory. This competition was the first conference match of the season. With great determination and practice, each team member has won every match in which they have played in regular competition.

Thursday, April 20 marked the girls' fourth win this season. This time they played at home against Bishop Luers. As usual, numbers one, two, and three singles all won, as well as the numbers one and two doubles teams.

Number one singles player Amy Recht (11) is quite pleased with the results of the season so far.

"Everyone has been doing a really good job, and each win boosts our confidence for the next match," Recht said.

On Saturday, April 22, the team headed down to Carmel High School to compete in the school's invitational. With eight teams in attendance, the girls faced some tougher competition. Still, Recht, along with the number one and two doubles teams advanced all the way to the finals. Each finished second in their respective competition. Recht was defeated by Marie Modesto of Munster High School.

"I was upset that I lost in the finals, but Marie played well and I gave it my all. It was great that the five of us made it to the finals," Recht said.

In the end, the team finished fourth out of the eight teams at Carmel. The next invitational was on April 29 at Concord High School.

On Thursday, April 27, the girls faced their second conference opponent, with a match at home against Columbia City. The East Noble away match was cancelled on Tuesday, April 28, and it was rescheduled for April 29.

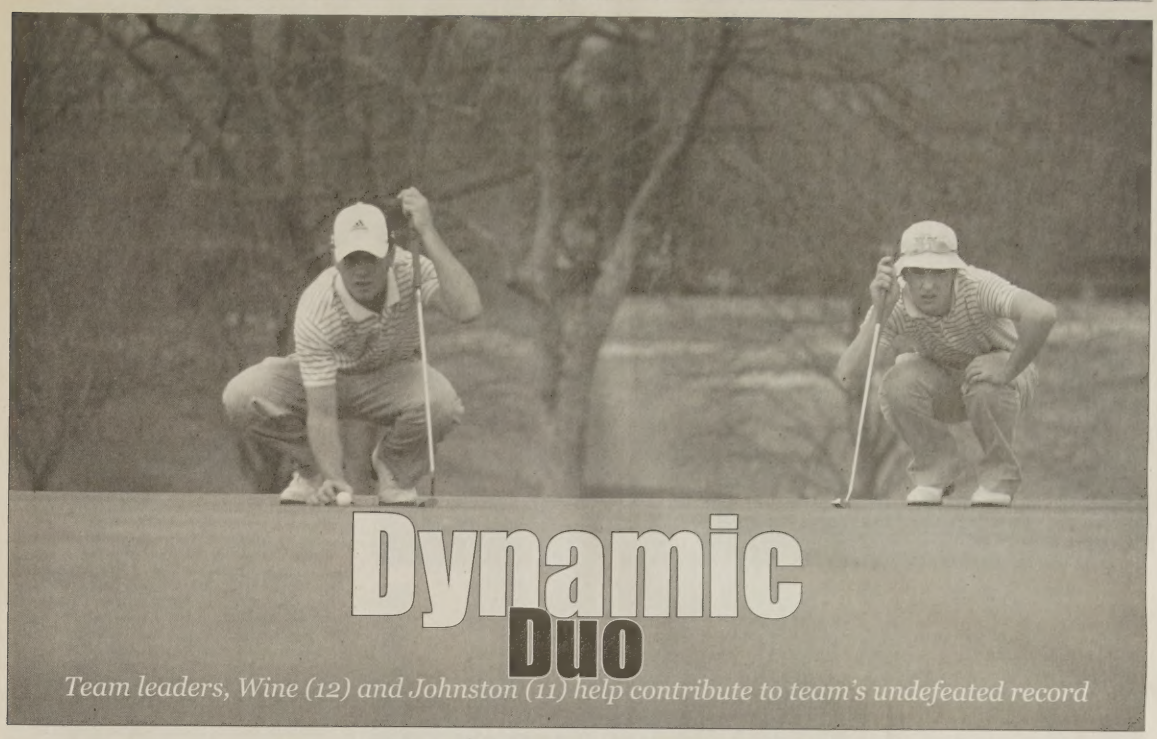
With about three-quarters of the season left for the team, the girls have faced five conference teams thus far.

In addition to the home match against Warsaw on May 1, the girls faced Belmont and Dekalb on May 2 and 4.

With each match, the roster can change in several ways. Different girls are rotated into the numbers one and two doubles teams, as well as the number three singles spot. However, Recht and Jade Johnson (9) have been solid in the number one and two singles spots, respectively.

The sectional and regional competition will take place at Homestead from May 18 through the 20. Semi-state will then be held at Carroll High School. Recht is optimistic about the girls' post-season competition.

"I really think the team can go far this year. This first quarter of our season has gone really well. If we all keep this up, I know we can improve and hopefully all of us can make it all the way to state," Recht said.



Dynamic Duo

Team leaders, Wine (12) and Johnston (11) help contribute to team's undefeated record

By Erin Quinn
Writer

Five matches into the season, the boys golf team is keeping its goal alive of playing in the state finals.

The boys faced Concordia in their first match of the season on Tuesday, April 11. Two day later, they faced DeKalb, and on April 18, they met Columbia City. All three of the matches were played at their home course, Orchard Ridge, and after their first victory against Concordia, the Spartans swung smoothly into a 2-0 Northeast Hoosier Conference standing.

On Saturday, April 22, the team headed to the Wawasee Invitational in Stonehenge. Erich Johnston (11), the only junior on the team, led the Spartans to a fifth place finish. Johnston, won first place individually after beating his opponent in an exciting playoff. Nate Wine's (12) solid performance also helped the Spartans place as high as they did.

Wine is a new addition to the team who transferred from Culver. Wine began playing golf when he was four years old, and continues playing every day. During the winter months, when it is too cold to play outside, he takes lessons at Sycamore Hills Country Club and practices at the Golf Dome.

"Being my first year at Homestead and being a senior, I feel my job is to help the underclassmen, but most of all I feel I need to shoot consistently low scores," Wine said.

The Spartans hope that Wine's experience at the state level and Johnston's consistently low scores will be the dynamic combination necessary for a successful season.

The team has four more matches at their new course and four more invitationals before they head to Chestnut Hills to play for the NHC title. Then, they face Dwenger at Orchard Ridge on May 25, which is the last regular meet of the season. On June 2, the tournament season begins at the Noble Hawk course for the sectional match.

With advantages, like a country club course, and strong leadership, the Spartans plan to continue their undefeated season and bring home a conference championship. And with more than a dozen regular season meets left in the season, the team has plenty of time to mature and become the team they know they are capable of being.

"I think it's every team's goal to go to state at the beginning of the year. But it's not every team that really does have the opportunity," said Wine.

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

Andrew Elbrecht (12) and Michael Mercier (10) walk with their bags to the next hole. They team has four more home matches at Orchard Ridge until the NHC match which is heald at their old corse, Chesnut Hills. Finally home match is on May 25.

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Lacrosse team builds off of winning record

Leading scorers Freeland and Brown help the team to a 7-4 record with four games left on the regular season schedule

By Joe Salisbury
Writer

The Homestead lacrosse team will look to finish their season on a strong run while accomplishing some of their preseason goals.

They opened up their season in South Bend on March 18, against LaPorte. The team came out strong, on their way to an 11 to 1 victory. Tyler Freeland (12) led the Spartans with three goals and two assists. Matt Mickulecky (12) added three goals and one assist, and Kirk Brown (11) had two goals and two assists. Next, the Spartans played Washington who is one of the better tams in the state. The guys came out hard and fought their way to a 14 to 8 victory over the Yellow Jackets. Brown had five goals and two assists, Freeland had four goals and three assists, and Mickulecky had two goals and one assist.

The Spartans next game was against top ranked Heritage Christian on March 24. Freeland had three goals and Brown provided two, in an intense 8 to 7 overtime loss. The team continued their weekend with a game against Westfield losing 13 to 9. Freeland had four goals and one assist and Brown had three goals and two assists. The team had one more game before spring break, against Pike. The Spartans were able to prevail 6 to 5. Freeland one again led the way with two goals, and Mickulecky also added two goals. Joey Emmons (11) played strong in goal with 12 saves.

On April 15, the team opened up a streak of home games against Brebeuf Jesuit. The team lost 9 to 4 in a tough match. Brown and Freeland each had two goals to get the Spartans on the board. At the next game, the team came out on fire, on way to a 16 to 2 rout against Guerin. Freeland had four assists and one goal and Brown had four goals to lead the Spartans. Emmons only faced four shots in the entire match. The team continued their strong play and won 9 to 4 against Lafayette the next weekend. Once again Freeland, four goals and two assists, and Brown, two goals and one assist, led the team to a victory. However, in the game later that evening, the team fell to St. Joseph 11 to 6.

Next, the Spartans played the Snider Panthers. The team came out strong against one of their rivals on their way to a convincing victory. Later that week, they beat another strong team in Hamilton Southeastern.

"We really need to go undeafeated the rest of the season," said Matt Deshener (11), one of the teams key defenders. "We have played well throughout the season, but need to finish strong to make sure that we make the tournament."

The team is hoping to end their season strong and make their way into the state tournament. This has been one of the team's goals the entire season and they are on the verge of achieving it.

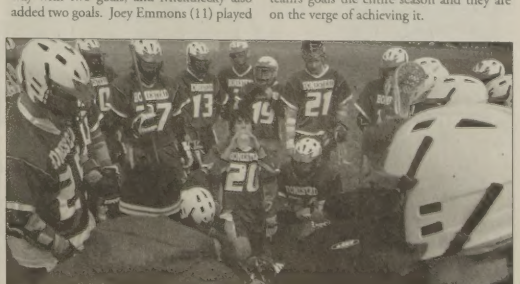

PHOTO BY ZACH HETRICK

The lacrosse team gathers around to listen to an encouraging pep talk during a time out.

GEARING UP for post-season

Girls track has talent, depth in all grades to help them succeed

PHOTOS MARGARET DISTLER

By Caitlin Myers
Writer

After their meet against Carroll and DeKalb was cancelled on Tuesday, April 25 due to bad weather, the girls track and field team spent their time preparing for their most recent invitational, the Lime City Relays, on Saturday, April 29. The girls are also nearing the end of their season and have been very successful overall.

"We came into the season doubting ourselves, but now things positive things are happening. After Coach Tiernon left, the upperclassmen were unsure of how things would develop over the season without her. A strong freshman class contributed to the success we've had so far," Erin Quinn (10) said.

Out of nine teams that the girls competed against, they placed first with a score of 138, followed by Hamilton Southeastern with a score of 126, Huntington North with 107, Carroll with 94, Northrop 88, South Side 46, North Side 43, South Bend Adams 35, and Prairie Heights 20. Stephanie Mitchell (11) placed third in the shot put and third in discus, Katie Veith (11) placed first in the pole vault, Meghan Terrell (9) placed second in the 3200, and Katie Beutler placed third in the 100. The 1600 meter relay team placed second and the 400 meter relay team placed second.

"Meghan is really providing points this season. All the distance girls knew she was coming this year, but we didn't want to pressure or intimidate her by expecting too much. Her success and progress over the season is inspiring and fun to watch," Quinn said. "She's also filling in the two mile and mile spots, adding depth to the team. It spreads our distance strength out because Sam Lee (12) can run the mile and Meghan the two mile, combining for points every meet."

The second most recent meet that the girls competed in was the Penn Relays, which was held Saturday, April 22. Here, the girls ran against 16 teams, some of whom that were not in their regular season conference. Some of these teams include Northridge, Elkhart Central, Penn, Huntington North, Elkhart Memorial, Mishawaka, Gary Roosevelt, and Munster. The first place team, Michigan City, scored 88 points, followed by Northrop with 84, Northridge with 71, and Homestead with 66.5.

The girls placed well in the discus, with Mitchell taking second place, throwing a distance of 128-0. Veith placed first in the pole vault, jumping a height of 13-0.

Top: Justine Jost (9) sprints the final stretch of her leg in the varsity 4x4 relay at Bellmont. Above: Kelley Strothmann (10) checks her time with Coach Sara Wyss after her 400 race during an away meet that was held at Bellmont High School. Wyss tries to talks to each athlete after their race to give them feedback.

"A lot of emphasis is placed on Katie's pole vault ability and her consistency to win points. People often overlook Chelsey Sholl (11), who quietly earns second or third place finished in most of the meets in pole vault. Lauren Cleaver (11), Elaine Gemple (12), and Kristen Kinzer (9) do the same thing in the other field events," Quinn said. "We managed to win Lime City not because we have super stars who win every event they compete in. We won because we have two girls placing in almost every event. Most teams don't have that kind of depth, and that's why they lose to us."

Colts add speed, toughness to roster in this year's draft

By Dillon Kimmel
Executive Editor

After losing several key position players following the 2005 season, the Colts needed a strong draft to solidify themselves as a contender this coming season. After compiling an NFL-best 14-2 campaign last season, the Colts cut loose pro-bowl running back Edgerrin James due to salary cap issues. David Thornton, Larry Tripplet, and star kicker Mike Vanderjagt were also lost to free agency.

To compensate for the loss of Vanderjagt, the Colts quickly acquired perhaps the most clutch kicker of all time, Adam Vinatieri, who has plenty of experience (I'd say three rings and two game-winning Super Bowl kicks qualifies). The Colts needed a change at place-kicker following Mike Vanderjagt's shank-job in the final minute against the Steelers last year. You just cannot miss in the playoffs and keep your job. I think it was a brilliant move on the part of the Colts, dealing Vanderjagt. He was a nuisance in the locker room and wasn't a team player. I know he is "the most accurate kicker in history" but he missed when he had to make it. And though it will take awhile for me to get used to a Patriot in a Colts uniform, I think i will get over it when Vinatieri hits his first game-winner for the Horseshoes.

A glaring need for the Colts entering the draft was at the running back position. The Colts sent Edgerrin James to the Cardinals this off-season and needed a RB desperately. Yes, Dominic Rhodes rushed for 1000 yards when Edge got hurt a couple of years ago, but if the Colts want to contend next year, they need a dynamite rushing attack.

The Colts went out and got just that. With the 30th pick in the draft, they got Joseph Addai out of LSU. Joseph has a lot in common with Edgerrin James. He played both fullback and wide receiver at LSU before blossoming at tailback for the Tigers. He has considerable strength and long speed and has the ability to cut accurately and quickly. He can catch the ball out of the backfield and is a great blocker. Addai isn't fantastic at anything, but he is a complete back and was solid at everything he was asked to do at LSU.

Most importantly, though, Addai is a winner. He was a big part of LSU's national championship run a few years ago, and though a high ankle sprain hindered his senior season, he performed exceptionally well at a workout with the Colts a few weeks ago.

At the moment, Dungy insists that Rhodes will be the starter at the start of the season. But Dungy also contends that Addai could be a major factor in the running game.

"He's going to be an excellent third down back because he can block, pick up blitzes, and catch the ball, and he's going to be a good runner for us," Dungy said in an interview with the Colts website.

In the second round, the Colts selected a quick, explosive cornerback from Georgia, Tim Jennings. Jennings blossomed in his final two seasons at Georgia. He's tough and fast (ran a 4.36 at the combine), and is very similar to the Colts first round draft pick last year, Marlin Jackson, who contributed greatly to the Colts' defensive turnaround in 2005.

In the third round the Colts went out west and selected OLB Freddie Keiaho from San Diego State University. Keiaho came on as a one-year player, but made a ton of tackles in his senior year at SD State. San Diego State played great competition this year, matching up against UCLA and Ohio State. Keiaho played very well against those top-tear teams. He is very explosive and has great speed, which compliments the Colts' defense, which relies on its speed rather than its size.

The Colts rounded out the draft by selecting OTs Michael Toudouze and Charlie Johnson, safety Antoine Bethea, and cornerback T.J. Rushing from Stanford.

The Colts have holes that needed to be filled, and they did a pretty good job overall of filling them. The Colts have a solid team left over from last season, and the additions of some speedy and tough players could help Indy get over that hump and finally deliver a championship.

Puma rugby squad sets standard for state competitions

By David Greco
Writer

When many people think of rugby, they think of only a guys' sport. Yet, recently, rugby has gained much acclaim in the past years as a girls' sport despite its existence for several years.

In addition to its relation to many other sports, rugby is beginning to rise in popularity among Homestead's top club sports. Rugby is both a boys' and girls' sport that, in both, requires a certain amount of drive and dynamism in each player. Even though rugby requires very little protection equipment-wise, players still go out with the effort required. Most importantly, there is no shortage of players on this year's roster, especially compared to last year's squad.

Friends who play the sport have a strong influence on incoming rugby players.

"Once you start playing the game, you just cannot stop," said Katie Mahara (12), who is on her fifth year of playing rugby. "It's like you're addicted."

This year, the girls' team has around 30 players and they practice with Coach Eckler, who has been a part of Homestead Rugby for seven years, and Assistant Coaches Crystal Schlarb, Jenna Salamone, and Liz Olsen, who all played under Eckler. They practice on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays as well with an optional practice on Thursdays. Last year, they had a winning season and are working on another successful season.

"We set the standard for the state on how women's rugby is played," Coach Eckler said. "Some people think girls can't play rugby, but we come out and do great because we work well as a team and like a big family."

Although the athletes have excitement while playing rugby, there are risks in the game. The most protection rugby players usually get is a mouthpiece and a shirt even though the game revolves around hard-hitting tackles. Yet, the players and coaches continue to emphasize the importance of being tough and aggressive.

"I just love the sport and know we're going to work hard," Jessica Bruce (12) said. The girls' rugby team continues to work hard every week and go to their full potential.

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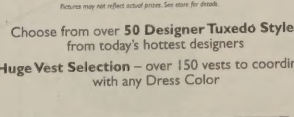

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Extra practice pays off for softball

Softball team boasts 14-4 record; 3-1 in conference play

By Luke Chase
Writer

Conference play began for the Softball team and they have already played seven games. Their record, as of press date, is 14-4 for the whole season and 3-1 for the conference.

The team's practices are usually very routine. The team will work in the infield and outfield, and they cover things that might come up in a game. But with conference play heating up, they have had to focus on their hitting says second basemen Marita Rondot (12).

The extra practice has been paying off, Rondot said. She noticed a difference in the team's batting efforts in the games since these practices. A couple of the team's at bats almost left the park as well.

The team is very unified. All of the girls have pulled together in an effort to get as far as they can this season. The team's main leader is their pitcher Beth McCullough (12).

Rondot is very optimistic after playing three conference games. The team at this point has a record of 2-1. Before Monday's game against Belmont, Rondot was hopeful.

"One of our goals is to beat Belmont," Rondot said.

After playing a few more games the team will know more concretely how they measure-up in conference play.

"We still have hopes of finishing high in the conference," Coach Tom Clagg said after the team's loss to Columbia City.

Columbia City is undefeated thus far in the season.

The team defeated East Noble 2-1 and New Haven 8-0. This past Monday the team played Belmont and won 1-0. Belmont is a highly ranked team in this conference and McCullough threw a no hitter. This past Wednesday they played DeKalb.

Admission to the softball games is three dollars and there is still a chance to catch some action. The team still has a ways to go, as their season extends into mid-May. From there, sectionals, regionals and state competition extends until early June.

SOFTBALL INFO
Record: 14 - 4; 3- 1 nn conference
May 6 - Marion - Away
May 8 - Carroll - Away
May 10 - Norwell - Home
May 13 - Warsaw Tourney - Away
May 16 - Elmhurst - Home

Beth McCullough pitches during a game. McCullough has pitched two perfect games this season. Top: Brittany Hamrick (11) and Marita Rondot (12) attempt to tag out a runner. The runner was called out for interference.

Player Spotlight

Beth McCullough, *pitcher*

By Luke Chase
Writer

Beth McCullough (12) is pitcher for the Homestead's Varsity softball team. Her evolution as a player is one that started well before her experiences with her current team and is one that will, no doubt, continue on beyond high school.

McCullough started playing slow-pitch softball around the age of eight. By age ten she moved on to playing fast-pitch. Throughout her time playing softball, McCullough has primarily been a pitcher but also has held a first base position in the past.

She is not only a softball player but was also a cheerleader in her freshman and sophomore years but didn't go out for the squad for her junior or senior years. This allowed her to devote more time to softball and pitching.

Pitchers have to work a lot on their own, even during the off-season. McCullough puts in time with a pitching coach during her off-season.

She practices with this coach a couple times a week. This one-on-one coaching effort provides another point of view and different ideas for the pitcher; a lot of pitchers have pitching coaches, Coach Tom Clagg said.

During the regular season, she works with her coach and the catcher, Eden Lamb. Clagg described the two as a "very effective pitcher-catcher combination for the team".

This dynamic duo has traveled beyond Homestead's team when they played in a league together in Columbia City this past year. McCullough has played in various leagues outside of the regular school season.

In fact her most memorable moment happened during the 2003 summer all-star team state playoffs. The team won state and went on to the regional competition. The experience was a little intimidating, she said, and the team unfortunately did not advance very far in the competition.

Clagg has coached Homestead's Softball Team for all four of McCullough's years at Homestead. Even as a freshman she played some games with the varsity team.

"She is definitely one of the leaders on this team and she does a very good job as a leader," Clagg said.

Throughout the time that Clagg has coached McCullough he has seen her become a more complete pitcher. When she first started pitching, she used to try to just get the ball past the batter with her fastball, Clagg said.

"She has developed into a very intelligent softball player," Clagg said.

"Just the competition of it, and being on the mound" are the things McCullough enjoys most about the sport.

Currently the main focus for McCullough is the team and conference play.

"Our team gets along really well were all really good friends," McCullough said. Although she can't quite remember what first got her started playing softball, she does know that she likes the sport and hopes to carry it with her beyond high school and to the next level in college.

McCullough has plans to go to a smaller school in Pennsylvania. Gettysburg College is just what she is looking for. It is a nationally recognized undergraduate college of liberal arts and sciences that has around 2,500 students. Mc-

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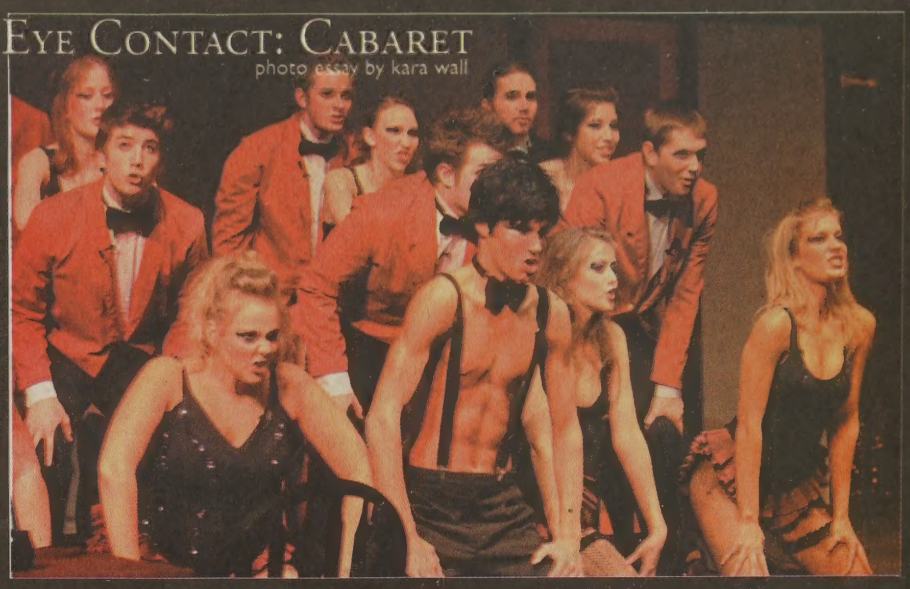
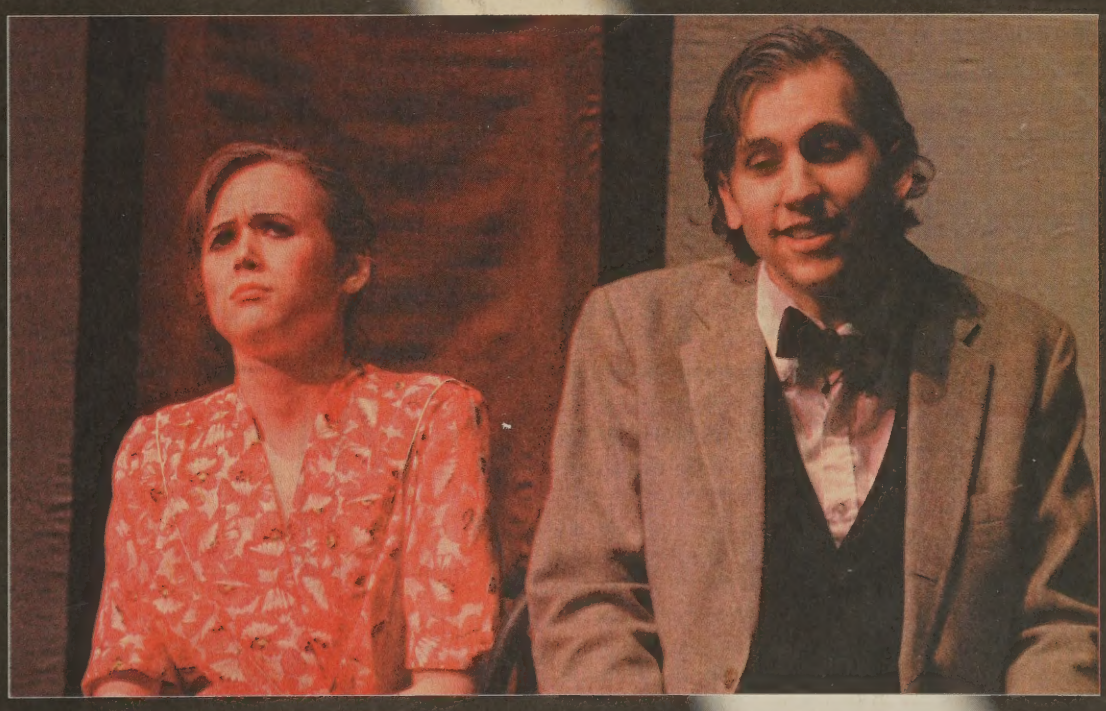
Eye Contact: Cabaret

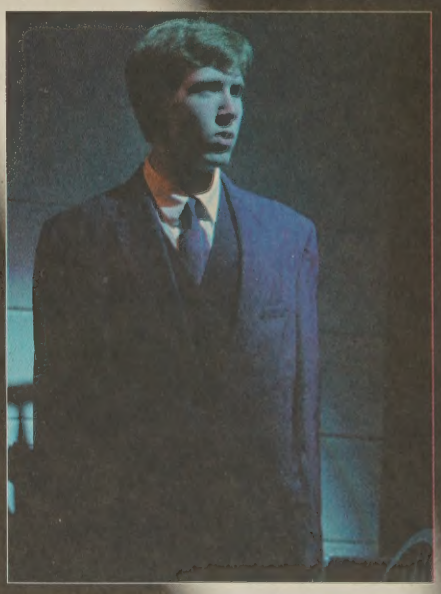
photo essay by kara wall



Above Left: Chris Reed (12) sings a solo during the dress rehearsal for Cabaret. Above: Trevor At (12) and other cast members pose during a musical number during the dress rehearsal for Cabaret. Alt plays the emcee of the Kit Kat Klub, and he narrates the plot for the audience. Below Left: Emma Farnsworth (11) sings a solo during a musical number. Below Middle: Emily Hart (12) dances during a musical routine in the musical Cabaret. Hart and the other cast members worked every day after Spring Break to prepare. Tonight, May 5, May 12, and May 13 are the four performance nights. Below Right: Kristina Kartholl (12) and Tommy Lyday (12) kiss during a Cabaret scene.

cabaret





Top: Emma Farnsworth (11) and Jim Katz (12) talk during a scene in Cabaret. Far Right: Austin Hetrick (11) sings a duet with Meg Warner (11) during a musical number. Hetrick plays a Nazi in the drama department's production of Cabaret. Above: Hetrick and Kartholl in the show's finale. Above Right: Tommy Lyday being held back as another character prepares to hit him. Right: The Cabaret girls reveal Trevor Alt in the show's kickline.